

Russian employee killed in Algeria

ALGIERS (AP) — A Russian chauffeur and a senior foreign ministry official were shot and killed in separate attacks Monday, and security forces announced the assassinations were the latest in a wave by extremists trying to topple the military-backed regime and drive out foreigners key to running the oil-based economy (see page 2). The body of Konstantin Kukushkin, 41, a driver at the Russian embassy in Algiers, was found dead inside a parked embassy car in Saoula, on the western outskirts of the capital. Security forces announced hunting down and killing four men suspected of carrying out the slayings of the Russian and of senior Algerian diplomat Belkacem Touati. Touati, a deputy director of the ministry's African affairs division, was shot and killed Monday morning in front of his wife and children at his home at Bordj Al Kiffan, east of the capital. His wife was reportedly wounded. The security services announced seizing three pistols and a sawed-off shotgun from the hit squad, believed to have been part of the Islamic Armed Group.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية والرأي

Minister says Cairo talks positive

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talat Al Hassan Monday described as positive the outcome of the Arab League Council meetings which concluded in Cairo Sunday. He said discussions among Arab foreign ministers were characterised by frankness and keenness to achieve Arab solidarity and reconciliation. Mr. Hassan, speaking upon his return home, said the council had decided to put off deciding the fate of the Arab boycott of Israel to its next meeting upon a recommendation by the council's economic committee. The council also postponed taking any decision on amending the Arab League Charter and the question of Arab national security, pending having a satisfactory Arab position, the minister said. Jordan presented to the council a thorough study on pan-Arab security in the last session and was ready to discuss it had it not been postponed, he said. The atmosphere of the meetings was positive and that most of the Arab foreign ministers were present at the meetings, he said.

Volume 18 Number 5573

AMMAN TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 1994, SHAWWAL 17, 1414

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Jordan's return to peace talks hinges on end to Aqaba siege

King summons Security Council ambassadors to demand 'new way of cooperating' with Jordan

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Monday linked Jordan's return to Middle East peace negotiations to lifting a three-year siege of the port of Aqaba and adopting a "new way of dealing with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan."

The King told the ambassadors of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council that Jordan's resumption of peace negotiations with Israel was contingent on the immediate resolving of this "completely unacceptable situation and adopting a new way of cooperating with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan."

A statement released by the International Press Office at the Royal Court said: "His Majesty King Hussein called to his office at the Royal Court today the ambassadors of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council to inform them in very clear terms of the pressures and aggravations Jordan faces due to the blockade imposed on the port of Aqaba."

"His Majesty said that since

U.S. 'studying compromise'

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States is considering easing a trade embargo at Aqaba, a U.S. spokesman said Monday. One proposal being considered is a plan to inspect ships once they have docked at Aqaba rather than the current procedure of stopping and searching them before they reach the Red Sea port, said a U.S. official who requested anonymity.

Jordan asked for such a change two months ago. State Department spokesman Michael McCurry did not specifically link the possible change in sanctions enforcement to Jordan's resumption of peace talks.

Mr. McCurry said he believed that Jordan would "continue pursuing peace through the Middle East process," which he said was "manifestly in Jordan's interests."

He added: "We've been engaged in discussions with the Jordanian government and with other partners in the (Gulf war) coalition about ways that we might be able to improve and maintain the integrity of the sanctions regime while responding to concerns that the Jordanian government has about the adverse effects of multinational interdiction force inspections that Jordan maintains have a negative impact on the Jordanian economy."

But he said the United States and other members of the coalition were committed to maintaining U.N. sanctions against Iraq.

the outbreak of the Gulf crisis, the blockade has resulted in great losses with negative repercussions on the Jordanian economy, in addition to the suffering of Jordanian citizens and the losses endured by the commercial sector in Jordan.

His Majesty said that it is odd that such sanctions and such harassment are imposed solely on Jordan and not any other country in the region.

"His Majesty explained to the ambassadors that since the outbreak of the Gulf crisis nav-

al bodies concerned with the implementation of the sanctions have inspected more than 1,700 ships bound for the Gulf of Aqaba. The inspections failed to find any violations of the sanctions or of their cause or aim. His Majesty stressed that not only are these sanctions and the resulting harassments at odds with the historical role that Jordan has assumed in order to achieve security, stability and growth in the region, but also are a direct affront to Jordan's dignity and a violation of its rights.

"His Majesty stressed that from now on the resumption of Jordan's involvement in the peace-making process to establish a just and lasting peace for the benefit of the entire region is contingent upon immediately addressing this completely unacceptable situation and on finding a new way of cooperating with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan."

Attending the meeting with King Hussein were Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and the King's

(Continued on page 5)

Ship denied Aqaba entry despite agreement

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A German vessel was turned away early Monday from the Gulf of Aqaba by the enforcers of the international sanctions against Iraq despite an agreement under which cargo aboard the ship was supposed to have been inspected at Aqaba port, informed sources said.

They said the 13,000-tonne Skyman was denied entry after inspectors aboard the American-led warships patrolling the Red Sea insisted on their own interpretation of an agreement reached with Jordan, the sources said.

Under the accord, the first of its kind since the sanctions against Iraq went into force in August 1990, an inspector from one of the U.S. warships was to board the Skyman at the Tiran Straits in the mouth of

the Gulf of Aqaba and come to the port aboard the vessel to supervise the inspection of the cargo unloaded at the port, the sources said.

"But instead of sending an inspector aboard the vessel, the Americans insisted that the agreement was that a warship will accompany the Skyman to Aqaba," said one of the sources.

"The Jordanian government rejected the suggestion and hence the ship was turned away," added the source, who, like others who confirmed the incident, spoke on condition of anonymity.

According to another source, "Jordan rejected the American suggestion since (the Kingdom) considered the entry of a ship escorted by a warship into Jordanian waters as an infringement of its sovereignty."

Furthermore, said the

source, the American insistence on sending a frigate to accompany the Skyman despite Jordan's record of abiding by the sanctions against Iraq was also seen as raising questions on the Kingdom's credibility and sincerity.

His Majesty King Hussein has repeatedly said that Jordan would not allow anyone to question its credibility and sincerity.

When it was known two days ago that the cargo aboard the Skyman — 3,000 tonnes of general cargo including steel rods and animal feed — was to be inspected on land at Aqaba port instead of the Tiran Straits, hopes were raised that it could be the forerunner of an arrangement to move all cargo inspections to port.

Under the proposed arrangement, a neutral international agency would inspect all incoming and outgoing cargo

for violations of the sanctions against Iraq.

The Skyman was first turned away last Wednesday after four inspections since March 19 failed to satisfy the "cargo accessibility" demands of the inspectors.

Following the denial of entry, for the ship proceeded towards the Gulf port of Dubai to unload cargo destined there before possibly returning to Aqaba or offloading the Jordan-bound cargo elsewhere — as the case may be subject to the terms and conditions of the bill of lading — to tranship the goods to Aqaba.

Contacts launched by the Jordanian government led to the agreement for an on-land inspection of the cargo and the Skyman was recalled to the Red Sea, only to be turned

(Continued on page 5)

Iraq thanks Russia, France and China

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iraq on Monday thanked Russia, France and China for a positive stance on an eventual lifting of sanctions against Baghdad, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported.

The wording of the Iraqi announcement differed sharply in tone from recent comments by senior Iraqi leaders, who had threatened to take unspecified measures if the sanctions were not lifted.

The state-run Iraqi agency said the decision to thank those countries was made Sunday by the ruling Revolutionary Command Council at a meeting chaired by Saddam Hussein. The Security Council voted unanimously March 13 to continue the sanctions for at least two more months, but its members failed to agree on a statement.

The United States and Britain reportedly opposed any change in the statement issued after the periodic reviews every two months, which usually states only that the council sees no grounds to lift sanctions.

But Russia, France, China and other nations reportedly argued Iraq should be encouraged by a public recognition of its progress in satisfying weapons inspectors' conditions.

"The inference which we reached is that any important and positive development took place in the position of important and effective circles in the Security Council," the Iraqi

council said in a statement released to INA through a spokesman.

"This development needs following and encouraging to know certainly if there is a serious... hope of lifting the embargo," the council added.

"The two coming months will be crucial to get a clear conclusion... after these two months the command and the Revolutionary Command Council can take the relevant decisions."

There was no elaboration on what these decisions might be. The council next meets to debate the renewal of sanctions against Iraq in mid-May.

In the days before the Security Council's latest decision Iraq adopted a tough stance. President Saddam told Iraqis in a strongly worded television address that if diplomacy did not bring about an end to the sanctions Iraq would have the right to seek a "new path" to end them.

U.S. reassures Kuwait

Outgoing Ambassador Edward Gnehm said Washington would act to prevent any new attempt by Iraq to invade Kuwait, newspapers reported on Monday.

"We want him to read that we are ready and will move long before he ever gets anywhere near the border," the newspapers quoted Mr. Gnehm as telling Kuwaiti journalists in a briefing.

Ciller's party heads for win in local polls

ANKARA (AP) — Premier Tansu Ciller's party appeared headed for victory in local elections, despite economic woes and a series of attacks by Kurdish separatists.

The nationwide elections Sunday do not directly affect Ms. Ciller's nine-month coalition government, but the success of her centre-right True Path Party likely would be seen as a vote of confidence in its policies.

In her campaign, Ciller emphasised the government's military crackdown on Kurdish rebels fighting for autonomy in the southeast.

But the violence has continued, and on Sunday the separatists exploded a bomb at the St. Sophia Museum in Istanbul, injuring three European tourists. The museum, a Byzantine church that was turned into a mosque, apparently was not damaged. It is an Istanbul landmark and a popular tourist site.

An anonymous caller to newspapers said the attack was carried out by the separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK). The rebels have tried to cripple Turkey's crucial tourism industry and disrupt the elections.

Death threats forced at least 15 candidates to drop out of races in the Kurdish-dominated southeast, and dozens of villages boycotted the vote.

Results based on 65 per cent of the vote from provincial assembly elections Monday

showed the True Path leading with 24 per cent. The main opposition Motherland Party came second with 21 per cent and the Muslim fundamentalist Welfare Party had 18 per cent, according to state television.

The Social Democrat Populist Party, the junior coalition partner, had 12 per cent. The ultranationalist Nationalist Action Party got eight per cent and the rest of the vote was divided among eight other parties.

Opinion polls gave less than 20 per cent to Ciller's party before the elections.

If the trend continues, it will cushion the premier from critics who hold her responsible for the nation's deepening economic crisis, which includes rising inflation and a recent 70 per cent devaluation in the Turkish lira.

Ms. Ciller, an economics professor, said she inherited economic problems that accumulated during the past 10 years. She was expected to announce a stability package this week.

Political analysts said the public's frustration with economic hardships helped explain the rise in the Welfare Party's votes. Many voters turned to the Islamic Party in the southeast because the pro-Kurdish Democracy Party boycotted the election.

Ms. Ciller, 48, became the country's first woman leader after winning the True Path's leadership in June.



His Majesty King Hussein on Monday meets with the ambassadors of the five permanent members of the Security Council (Petra photo)

PLO awaiting Israeli reply to questions on security deal

Combined agency dispatches

ISRAELI AND the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have gone a long way in negotiations for the deployment of international observers and Palestinian police in the West Bank town of Hebron, a PLO official said on Monday.

Nabil Shaath, head of the Palestinian negotiating team for peace with Israel, said in Cairo that despite the progress the PLO was still awaiting answers on some points to conclude an agreement.

"We have gone a long and important way in the negotiations for security in Hebron. The Israeli authorities have clearly and fully accepted Security Council Resolution 904 — the immediate entrance of international observers to Hebron and the immediate deployment of Palestinian police there."

"But there are still some points that need a positive Israeli answer before reaching an agreement," Dr. Shaath

told Reuters. He said the PLO was waiting to hear the answers on its Hebron demands when talks resume with Israeli officials in Cairo on Tuesday.

"We are not going to discuss anything else until we finish this agreement. If we do not get the reply by tomorrow then the negotiations on Tuesday will be about implementing the Security Council resolution and ensuring security for the Palestinians in Hebron," Dr. Shaath said.

Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin said Israel and the PLO were close to reviving peace talks halted by a Jewish settler's slaughter of dozens of Palestinians at a mosque in Hebron last month.

Mr. Beilin said Israel and the PLO could reach agreement by Tuesday on how many Palestinian policemen and international observers are to be stationed in Hebron.

He said once agreement was reached on Hebron, they would need "a few weeks" to clinch agreement on withdraw-

ing Israeli troops and stalling Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho as envisaged in their September peace accord.

Israel Television reported the army will be ready to pull out of Gaza by April 14.

The report coincided with comments made by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres who said Monday that an autonomy agreement could be wrapped up by mid-April and be followed by a speedy troop pullout from Gaza and Jericho.

On the eve of resuming talks with the PLO, a senior army official said the military has already moved out much of its equipment from the soon-to-be-autonomous areas, and that it would only take a few days to complete the pullout.

Military officials told Israel Television it would be completed in two weeks.

The army has dismantled several bases and moved equipment out of Gaza, although there has been no reduction in troop deployment.

(Continued on page 5)

6 killed in Gaza

OCCUPIED GAZA (Agencies) — Israeli troops shot dead six Palestinians on Monday in the Jabalya refugee camp in the occupied Gaza Strip.

Soldiers identified six armed people, shot at them and killed them," an army spokeswoman said.

Palestinian sources said an Israeli undercover unit, supported by border police, opened fire on two cars carrying Palestinian activists, killing six.

The Palestinians said the bodies were taken by the Israeli army and therefore the names of organisational affiliation of the victims was not known.

It was the single bloodiest incident since a Jewish settler slaughtered dozens of Palestinians in a mosque in the West Bank town of Hebron on Feb. 25.

Some reports said at least four of the dead belonged to the Fatah Hawks. The other two dead were not immediately identified.

Hebron remained tense Monday, three days after troops lifted a month-long curfew clamped on the city's 110,000 Palestinian residents to block post-massacre protests.

Several dozen teenagers, armed with slingshots and some with their school bags on their backs, stoned soldiers posted at a street corner leading to Beit Hadassah, one of six Jewish enclaves in Hebron.

During a lull, two soldiers knelt in a shooting position and each fired a live round straight at the youths. Two U.N. refugee aid workers pulled up in a car and talked to the soldiers who then walked away.

"We told the soldiers they should not open fire in such a situation. There was no danger to life here," said Ann Merens, a U.N. Relief and Works Agency field worker from Belgium.

The clashes resumed several minutes later, but this time troops fired only tear-gas canisters.

PLO envoy arrives here

AMMAN (Petra) — A special envoy from Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat arrived in Amman Monday evening to brief Jordanian officials on the latest developments in the Palestinian-Israeli peace negotiations due to resume in Cairo Tuesday.

Hakam Bal'awa said his visit to Amman "is an affirmation of the close relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples."

Mr. Bal'awi told Petra that he would convey to Jordanian officials here the views of the Palestinian leadership on the peace process "since the Palestinian leadership has always been keen to familiarise Jordan with all its moves aiming at achieving just and comprehensive peace that would meet the aspiration of the Palestinian people and the Arab Nation."

Mr. Bal'awi said he would convey to Jordanian officials here the views of the Palestinian leadership on the peace process "since the Palestinian leadership has always been keen to familiarise Jordan with all its moves aiming at achieving just and comprehensive peace that would meet the aspiration of the Palestinian people and the Arab Nation."

The election ended an era.

Berlusconi leads in exit polls

ROME (Agencies) — Media magnate Silvio Berlusconi and his conservative alliance were leading in voting for parliament, exit polls showed Monday night.

Mr. Berlusconi, one of Italy's richest men, entered politics just two months ago to keep the former communists out of power. Exit polls gave his alliance 47 per cent in the Chamber of Deputies to 31 per cent for a leftist alliance dominated by the former communists. The race was closer, for the upper house, the Senate, but the conservatives still were leading.

One poll for state television said the Berlusconi bloc could fall short of the 316 seats needed for a majority in the 630-member Chamber of Deputies. But a Doxa poll for Mr. Berlusconi's own TG5 news programme forecast he was headed for at least 319 seats.

The election ended an era.

evoking comparisons to the fateful choice that faced voters after the defeat of fascism in World War II.

In 1948, the electorate rebuffed the communists' bid to run the country and went instead for the Christian Democrats. The centrist party went on to dominate for 46 years, serving as a bulwark against communism with the firm support of the United States and Roman Catholic Church.

But two years of corruption investigations, which exposed systematic kickbacks from businessmen to politicians, brought down the Christian Democrats, and their major allies, the Socialists.

Among those waiting to vote until the last minute was Mr. Berlusconi, who said he was voting after sundown to show solidarity with Jews celebrating Passover. He voted at a school in Rome's former Jewish ghetto, where a crowd of onlookers

yelled "bravo" and "fascist" as he made his way to the polling place.

Mr. Berlusconi, who owns a media and retail empire, leads an alliance of the autonomy-minded northern league, the formerly neo-fascist National Alliance and his recently created Forza Italia (Go Italy).

His chief rival was Achille Occhetto, who oversaw the transformation of the communists into the Democratic Party of the Left.

The voting was the longest in the history of the post-war republic. Originally balloting was scheduled for Sunday only. But that day was Passover, and after Jewish groups complained that observant Jews would not be able to vote, a second day was scheduled, with voting extended to after sundown Monday.

Implicated in the scandal have been hundreds of politicians.

Balladur drops youth wage buoyed by polls

PARIS (Agencies) — The French government said on Monday it was abandoning a law cutting wages for young people in job training, government spokesman Nicholas Sarkozy announced.

Mr. Sarkozy said Prime Minister Edouard Balladur had suspended the law allowing employers to pay people under 25 less than the minimum wage on short-term training contracts, and asked the head of the national employment agency to seek an alternative.

"During the duration of his mission, which will make it possible within one week to define a new system and put an end to the CIP (contrat d'insertion professionnelle), the prime minister has decided to suspend from today the application of the CIP," the spokesman told reporters.

He made the announcement

after Mr. Balladur met high school and university student leaders demanding the scrapping of the disputed measure, known officially as the CIP but dubbed by protesters a sub-minimum wage for youth.

Hundreds of thousands of students held sometimes violent demonstrations against the law over the last three weeks.

Wasting no time after the second round of local elections in which the left staged a minor comeback, Mr. Balladur met the student and youth leaders.

Sunday's voting failed to produce the swing to the right expected after the centre-right coalition won 44.7 per cent of the vote on the March 20 first ballot.

The balance of power in France's administrative departments remained unchanged and the Socialists hailed the result as a major recovery after their general election rout a

year ago.

Mr. Balladur said the outcome confirmed voters' confidence in his government.

The youth unrest has overshadowed Tuesday's first anniversary of Mr. Balladur's appointment, just when he wanted to give his government fresh momentum.

The conservative pro-government daily Le Figaro said in an editorial: "In the long term, one cannot govern a country against its young people."

In a television statement, Mr. Balladur said Sunday: "It is my responsibility and duty as head of the government, responsible for social and national cohesion, to respond to what is an appeal from the young."

"We must restore dialogue with them and consider the various possible solutions. I will take initiatives in this

direction in the coming days."

Final results confirmed the right's solid majority, but also showed that the left was on the mend.

The governing coalition lost 10 seats but still took 52 per cent of the vote, while the Socialists and their allies gained seven seats for a score of 30.6 per cent, according to the interior ministry.

The communists got 7.7 per cent of the final vote, the extreme right National Front had 2.6 per cent and the ecologists got less than a half per cent.

Voter turnout was 58.7 per cent Sunday, compared to 60 per cent on last week's first round vote.

The 14.7 million eligible voters were to choose 1,372 local councillors in France and its overseas departments in runoff balloting.

Violence rages in Algeria amid confusing signals

LONDON (Agencies) — Algerian security forces killed three suspected Muslim militants in the town of Blida, south of Algiers, at the weekend, Algerian radio reported on Sunday night.

The radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, also said security forces had arrested 15 people accused of assisting armed militant groups.

More than 300 suspected activists have been killed by security forces since March 10 when 400 escaped from the Tazoulet top-security fortress prison near Batna in eastern Algeria.

Last week, Interior Minister Salim Saadi asked civilians to cooperate in combating the political violence and hinted civil defence forces would be set up to help security forces.

Algerian newspapers were not published on Sunday for the second day running in protest against the mounting violence, in which 13 journalists have been killed, one of them a French cameraman.

The violence erupted two years ago after the cancellation of legislative elections that Muslim fundamentalists were poised to win. Since then more than 3,200 people have been killed, including numerous members of the security forces, civilians and 32 foreigners.

President Lamine Zeroual plans to include the banned Islamic Salvation Front in a dialogue aimed at ending an Islamic insurgency, a moderate fundamentalist party said Sunday.

The state-run news agency reported later that the claim was a "misleading extrapolation."

The Hamas Party said it learned of the plans in a conversation between its leader, Mahfoud Nabhah, and President Zeroual. The two met as part of the national dialogue, which got under way Wednesday.

"The head of state affirmed that the dialogue will include Islamic Salvation Front leaders," Hamas said.

It was the first clear statement that talks with various political parties would include the front, most of whose leaders are jailed or in exile. Mr. Zeroual had only hinted that the outlawed party would take part.

But the official APS news agency, citing sources close to the presidency, said Hamas had misinterpreted Mr. Zeroual. It said the report that he would meet with FIS leaders was a "misleading extrapolation of the (president's) message."

Besides Hamas, Mr. Zeroual has held talks with the Movement for Democracy in Algeria and the party for Algerian Renewal. Like Hamas, they are favourable to including the FIS in negotiations.

The Hamas statement did not say who would represent the FIS in the talks. Its top two leaders are serving 12-year prison sentences and many others are jailed as part of a crackdown begun two years ago to decimate the fundamentalist movement. The front, a grassroots movement that became the country's largest political party, was banned in March 1992.

Egyptian soldiers and Somali gunmen clash

MOGADISHU (R) — Egyptian U.N. peacekeepers and Somali gunmen clashed for a second successive day at Mogadishu's sea port entrance on Monday, causing an unknown number of Somali casualties.

Residents of the area said that one Somali gunman was killed and three other Somalis — including a civilian woman — were wounded by Egyptian fire in the streets outside the port.

A first firefight exploded before noon, the Somalis apparently opened up initially, but the Egyptians responded with sustained volleys from machine guns and AK-47s.

A second clash exploded shortly before 3 p.m. and the gunfire could be heard echoing across the city.

No U.N. peacekeepers appeared to have been hurt. It was impossible to confirm the Somali casualties.

Somali police at the port gates, defended by two Pakistani M-60 tanks and Egyptians in armoured vehicles and sandbagged entry points, said the Somali gunmen struck first.

The gunmen were from a group called the "Ashaum," people drawn from a mix of clans who ran port security before U.S. troops stormed into Somalia to end famine in December 1992.

The Ashaum were driven from the area by the Americans, but since U.S. forces left on Friday members of the group have renewed their claim to employment at the port.

"The Egyptians started shooting back every one of them. I don't think these people are soldiers," said Mr. Gel-

Yemeni cabinet adopts security plan

ADEN (Agencies) — The cabinet announced plans Sunday to crack down on suspects behind political violence that plagued the country in recent months and threatened to undermine the four-year merger of North and South Yemen.

The cabinet decision was expected to ease tension that had pushed the impoverished Red Sea nation to the brink of civil war.

A key reason for the protracted rift between northern and southern leaders has been complaints by the south's Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) about the security system that failed to curb political assassinations, bombings and kidnappings.

"The government ratified a plan for the arrest of suspects who remain at large or who have fled from jails, and the masterminds behind them, and for completing investigation with those under arrest and speed up their trial," said an official statement after the cabinet decision.

The meeting was held in Aden, the formerly Marxist South Yemen, instead of Sanaa, the capital of the unified country, to appease the southerners.

Ali Salem Al Beidh, who led South Yemen into merger with Ali Abdullah Saleh's conservative North Yemen in May 1990, had boycotted all official meetings in Sanaa since August in protest over the security situation and the slow pace of the union.

Mr. Beidh is vice president to Mr. Saleh, the head of state of the unified country.

Last month, Mr. Saleh and Mr. Beidh signed a reconciliation and reform charter in Amman.

The charter, which gave priority to the integration of the armed forces, has yet to be implemented. Clashes erupted afterwards between southern and northern forces along the boundaries that split the country before union, threatening to torpedo the merger.

The cabinet, according to the official statement, instructed the Defence Ministry to devise a plan for "evacuating armed forces from the cities and returning them to their barracks in preparation for their integration."

The government also announced the formation of an investigating committee to check out camps, suspected of harbouring "terrorists," mainly fighters who had served in the Afghanistan war against communism.

Iran says Armenians downed plane

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran said Monday that Armenian forces had shot down an Iranian plane that crashed on route from Moscow to Tehran earlier this month, killing all 32 people on board.

"Iran reserves the right to take legal action and receive compensation for the victims of the crash, and calls on the Armenian government to identify and punish those guilty of downing the aircraft," said a Foreign Ministry statement, carried by the Islamic Republic News Agency.

The Iranian C-130 Hercules transport plane was flying relatives or Iranian diplomats to Tehran March 17 when it exploded in midair over Nagorno-Karabakh, where Armenian and Azerbaijani troops have been fighting for more than six years.

IRNA, monitored in Nicosia, quoted the statement as saying: "This bitter incident is a clear proof of the tense situation in Karabakh, which endangers the lives of innocent people and those of foreign nationals."

IRNA said the findings were based on information gathered by an Iranian team of experts that was dispatched to the site after the crash.

Iran had said the plane suffered technical problems, which forced the pilot to drop into contested airspace.

Red Cross office in S. Arabia shut — diplomats

DUBAI (R) — The Riyadh office of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has shut down following disagreement over the status of more than 22,000 Iraqis stranded at a camp in Saudi Arabia, diplomats said on Monday.

They said the office was shut at the end of January and operations moved to Kuwait, regional headquarters of the Geneva-based ICRC.

The disagreement was over the status of the Iraqis, many of them former prisoners of war, the diplomats said the ICRC was insisting they were detainees while Saudi Arabia says they are refugees.

"The difference is over whether they are refugees," one diplomat said. He said the status of the Iraqis affected the access and extent of ICRC responsibility towards them.

"The office is shut, but ICRC officials still visit Saudi Arabia for work relating to the camp," he added.

There has been no official word from Saudi Arabia or the ICRC over the closure of the office.

More than 30,000 Iraqis, initially took refuge at the Rafha camp, in northern Saudi Arabia, close to the Iraqi border, after the 1991 Gulf war over Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Some were former prisoners-of-war who refused to go home, others had fled fighting in southern Iraq between Iraqi troops and rebels.

The numbers increased until the end of the 1992. Last year Saudi Arabia — which said it spent \$400 million on the upkeep of the camp till February 1992 — stopped accepting new arrivals. They are not normally allowed to leave the camp until other countries agree to accept them.

The diplomats said the ICRC was still carrying letters to the Iraqis at Rafha from their relatives back home.

Travel documents that the ICRC used to arrange for the Iraqis trying to resettle in other countries were now being handled by the embassies of countries who have accepted them, they added.

Saudi Arabia said in May last year that 13 people were killed, including four Saudi nationals who were burnt to death, when riots swept the Rafha camp in March. Some refugees demonstrated to demand that Saudi authorities admit more Iraqis.

Abdul Mawla Al Solh, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) representative in Saudi Arabia, said on Monday there were more than 22,000 Iraqis still at the camp.

Up to 7,044 were resettled to the United States, Canada, Europe, Arab countries and Iran between June 1991, when the resettlement operations started, and the end of February this year, he said.

Beilin to head team to Oman multilaterals

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin said on Monday he would head an Israeli team on a groundbreaking trip to Oman next month.

The Israelis would join the first multilateral Middle East peace talks to be held in a Gulf state, he told Israeli radio.

His remarks coincided with intensive efforts by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to revive their peace talks stalled by an Israeli gunman's massacre of dozens of Palestinians at an occupied West Bank mosque.

"I am leaving on the 17th of the month for Oman. It will be the first time the multilateral forum will hold a meeting in a Gulf state, this time on the subject of water. I will leave as head of our delegation," Mr. Beilin said.

"It's further important progress in our relations with the Arab states," he said.

Qatar's Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad Ben Jassim Ben Jabr Al Thani said in Cairo on Sunday that his country would invite Israel to attend an arms control meeting of the multilateral Middle East process in Doha on May 2.

Israel has for more than two years held multilateral talks with Arab states from North Africa to the Gulf joined by countries from around the world on topics ranging from arms control to water use.

The talks coincide with Israel's bilateral peace talks with Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and the PLO.

Government experts from Gulf Arab states Sunday ended a meeting in Riyadh designed to lay groundwork for Israel's first participation in political conferences in the region.

Sources said the participants came from all six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) members — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman.

GCC states have taken part in past multilateral talks with Israeli officials in many world capitals.

The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Gulf states' interior ministries will discuss the experts' recommendations and then submit them to the alliance's foreign ministers.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Arabs support Khartoum on southern war

CAIRO (R) — Arab foreign ministers backed Khartoum on Sunday over its allegations that foreigners were plotting to set up a secessionist state in southern Sudan. The Arab League Council of Ministers, in resolutions passed at a two-day meeting in Cairo, said it was deeply disturbed and anxious at "foreign designs to separate the south of Sudan..." and the "associated support for the secessionist rebels." The resolutions also condemned visits to southern Sudan by official delegations not approved by the Khartoum government. The Arab-dominated government in Sudan has been fighting a rebellion by Christian and animist southerners for more than a decade. The conflict has escalated since army officers with Muslim fundamentalist leanings took power in 1989. The minister added however that they "supported efforts to reach a comprehensive agreement on southern Sudan through negotiations and dialogue between the Sudanese parties." The Umma Party, the largest party after democratic elections in Sudan in 1986, has asked the Arab League to ignore the government's stance on the war, saying Khartoum was responsible for its continuation.

GCC plans supreme military committee

RIYADH (AP) — Chiefs of staff of the Gulf Cooperation Council's (GCC) member states will set up a supreme military commission to oversee the expansion of a joint defence force, GCC officials said Sunday. The officials, who requested anonymity, said the meeting will be held April 12 in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the UAE are group in the 12-year-old security and economic alliance. The supreme military commission will supervise implementation of a GCC plan to expand a fledgling 10,000-member joint rapid deployment force and bolster Saudi Arabia's airborne early warning and control system to cover the entire Gulf region. The move involves the acquisition of four more radar planes to supplement the five Saudi Arabia had acquired from the United States. Failure of the GCC's joint army to repel the Iraqis when they invaded Kuwait in August 1990 prompted calls for an effective military force to counter outside threat to any of the member states. The expansion plan was endorsed by GCC leaders when they met in their annual summit in Riyadh in December.

2 Israelis held in Cyprus for carrying bullets

NICOSIA (R) — Cyprus police arrested two Israelis at Larnaca airport on Sunday night after officials found three shotgun bullets in their suitcases. "They were on board a plane for Israel after spending three days in the resort town of Ayia Napa," a police source told Reuters on Monday. Chioshou Effraim, 30, and Shaue Shimon, 29, will face charges of possession of ammunition. The reason for their visit to Cyprus was not known.

Morocco to withdraw from Somalia in April

RABAT (R) — Morocco will withdraw its 1,200 troops from Somalia by the end of April and hand over to the International Red Cross the military hospital it set up in Mogadishu, the official news agency MAP reported. The agency said Foreign Minister Abdul Latif Filali had informed the Arab League at a meeting in Cairo of its decision to withdraw the Moroccan contingent. Morocco sent its contingent in April 1992 to join the "Restore Hope" operation aimed at ending famine and bringing peace to Somalia.

Lebanon's press urges media ban lift

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's press syndicate said on Monday the government's temporary ban on private news broadcasts was "a dangerous development" and called for its cancellation. The syndicate said in a statement it suspected the government wanted to make the ban permanent. "The syndicate, and all the Lebanese, have big fears that the goal is to ban the freedom of expression that was guaranteed by the constitution and that there are behind the temporary cabinet decision intentions to transform it into something permanent," it said. "Therefore, the syndicate demands the government cancel its decision," it added. The government banned private television and radio stations on Wednesday from airing news bulletins and political programmes.

Cyprus denounces move of Turkish troops to Bosnia

NICOSIA (AP) — Cyprus Monday denounced the United Nations decision to add Turkish troops to the U.N. peacekeepers in Bosnia. Turkey should be excluded from any U.N. peacekeeping operation because "it is itself flouting a series of United Nations Security Council resolutions," government spokesman Vannakis Cassoulides told his daily press briefing. The Security Council last week accepted Turkey's offer to send 2,700 troops to join the United Nations Protection Force in Bosnia. The decision has also been strongly criticised by Bulgaria and Greece. Mr. Cassoulides said that any state participating in a U.N. peacekeeping operation "must display consistency and compliance with United Nations decisions."

Rescuers haul sinking Egyptian ferry to shore

CAIRO (R) — Rescuers in the Egyptian Red Sea port of Safage saved 236 people from a sinking passenger ferry on Monday after it struck coral reefs, security sources said. The Egyptian-owned Al Qamar Al Souidi ferry was carrying the passengers, including 62 crew members, from the Egyptian port of Suez to Jeddah in Saudi Arabia when it struck coral reefs 20 kilometres off the port of Safage. Rescue crews took the passengers to safety in small launches and then hauled the empty vessel onto shore. Hundreds of passengers died in 1991 in a similar accident when the Egyptian ferry Salem Express sank after hitting coral reefs in the treacherous waters off Safage.

U.N. to draw up baseline data for Iraq monitoring

BAHRAIN (AP) — U.N. missile experts are preparing for a two-month stint in Iraq to gather detailed information on missile production facilities needed to enforce a monitoring system of the country's weapons industry, the team leader said Sunday.

"We're going to be constructing what are called protocols at many of the ballistic missile production facilities, which is part of a baseline inspection," said John Larrabee, an American, who will lead a 14-member team to Iraq on Wednesday.

"They're documents that will be maintained in New York and they basically will help inspectors these facilities during the ongoing monitoring and verification phase," Mr. Larrabee explained at a news conference in Bahrain, the inspectors' regional base.

He declined to elaborate on the likely contents of the documents. "It's not fair for us to be advertising details before we have an opportunity to discuss them with the Iraqis," he said.

Under the Gulf war ceasefire terms, Iraq is prohibited from developing missiles of a range of 150 kilometres or more.

Since the April 1991 ceasefire, which followed Iraq's eviction from Kuwait after a seven-month occupation, U.N. inspectors have unearthed and destroyed a stock of Scud-type missiles in Iraq. They also have dismantled nuclear, chemical and biological weapons programmes.

The U.N. Special Commission, which has been supervising the destruction of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, is now working on long-term monitoring plan to ensure Iraq does not try to revive any of its programmes.

Once the plan is set up and working, the commission is expected to recommend to the U.N. Security Council that a trade embargo of Iraq be lifted. The sanctions were imposed after Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Morocco group demands Tunisia free arrested leader

RABAT (AP) — Morocco's human rights organisation on Sunday asked Tunisian authorities to "immediately" free a human rights leader arrested last week and, in an unusual move, said it was sending an envoy to get information on the matter.

Dr. Moncef Marzouki, 47, president of the Tunisian League of Human Rights, was arrested Thursday in Sousse, 150 kilometres south of Tunis, his family has said.

No explanation for the detention has been made public. Mr. Marzouki tried unsuccessfully to enter to give President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali the sole candidate — an opponent.

Mr. Ben Ali was returned to power for a second five-year term after winning 99.9 per cent of the vote.

The Moroccan Organisation of Human Rights said it has sent a message to Tunisia's ambassador in Rabat seeking information "about the real motives for the arrest."

It said Mr. Marzouki recently informed the group of "indications" he suffered because of his attempted candidacy and because of his work within the Tunisian human rights group.

Mr. Marzouki was unable to run because he could not gather the required 30 endorsements from legislators or city council members, all of whom belonged to the ruling party.

The Moroccan organisation said it was sending a member of its national bureau, lawyer Abdullah Ouladi, to Tunis to gather information on Mr. Marzouki's arrest.

The move by the Moroccan group was an unusual sign of public displeasure with a neighbor, even from a human rights group.

Tunisian authorities drew criticism from France for attempts at controlling press coverage, notably by refusing to allow a journalist from the newspaper Le Monde to enter the country, expelling a reporter for the BBC and seizing foreign papers.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 7711-19

PROGRAMME TWO

19:30 Envo Special Magazine

19:40 News in French

19:45 Le Monde Fantastique Des Amants

19:50 News in Hebrew

20:00 News in Arabic

20:30 The Powers That Be

21:15 African Nations' Cup Match

22:00 News in English

22:45 Cape Rebel

23:30 Delta

PRAYER TIMES

04:00 Fair

05:24 (Sunrise) Doha

11:41 Dhahr

15:11 Asr

17:58 Maghreb

19:14 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Switcheh, Tel. 837047

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 627258

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624591

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 624441

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrace Church Tel. 622566

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 628551, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771131

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771251

Armenian International Church Tel. 625259

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328

German-speaking Evangelical Church Tel. 624905

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 624932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 624901

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 611295

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Amman 11 15:32

Aqaba 15:32

Deserts 8:26

Jordan Valley 14:28

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 24, Aqaba 32. Humidity readings: Amman 31 per cent, Aqaba 26 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Bassem Qaddumi 648633

Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad 646770

Dr. Fakhri Taweh 648681

Dr. Abdul Hadi Tayim 620115

First pharmacy 648912

Ferdous pharmacy 778236

Al Asma pharmacy 637055

Nairoukh pharmacy 625672

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 648445

Shamsi pharmacy 627661

Nairoukh pharmacy 623672

Najih pharmacy 647632

IRBID:

Dr. Ali Shuqari 246141

Alqub pharmacy 774111

Water Authority 680191

Jordan Electricity Authority 631615

Electric Power Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 08-53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 630341

Rescue Police 09-621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 891228

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 834302

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 630221

Hotel Complaints 616441

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage 897667

Complaints 767111

Amman Municipality 630221

Complaints 767111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone Repair 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 773111

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussien Medical Centre 813813/22

Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 642416

Alkhid Maternity, J. Amn. 642416

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Malbus, J. Amman 6661757

Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646

Shamsi Hospital 669131

University Hospital 849445

Al-Musharraf Hospital 6672779

Al-Hana Hospital 6661757

Palestine, Shamsi 6641714

Italian, Al-Muhajreen 7710103

Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511126

Army, Marfa 8916115

Queen Alia Hospital 666100

Amal Hospital 774155

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital 09983223

Zarqa National Hospital 09983250

Ibn Sina Hospital 09983232

Al-Hana Modern Hospital 09983232

IRBID:

Princess Beerna Hospital 02175555

Greek Catholic Hospital 02172225

Ibn Al-Nafes Hospital 02172700

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital 03134111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. 08532005, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

03:10 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)

07:30 Damascus (RJ)

07:30 Dhahran (RJ)

07:30 Beirut (ME)

07:30 Amsterdam, Damascus (RJ)

08:30 Bucharest (RO)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:00 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)

08:30 Paris, Frankfurt (RJ)

11:00 Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)

11:15 Montreal, Toronto (RJ)

11:25 Paris, Brussels (RJ)

12:45 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)

12:55 Cairo (RJ)

13:00 London (RJ)

13:00 Larnaca (RJ)

13:30 Jeddah (RJ)

13:30 Abu Dhabi, Doha (RJ)

15:30 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

04:20 Vienna (OS)

16:00 Rome (AZ)

17:30 Paris, Beirut (AF)

19:45 Beirut (ME)

23:25 Amsterdam, Damascus (RJ)

06:30 Bucharest (RO)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:30 Rome, Larnaca (AZ)

12:50 Vienna (OS)

17:00 Damascus (AZ)

18:00 Aden (IY)

01:30 Bucharest (RO)

06:30 Amsterdam (KL)

HUAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday

Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday

Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday

Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 550/650

Banana 600/680

Banana (Mukammal) 620

Carrot 240/120

Cauliflower 160/100

Cucumber 80/40

Cucumbers (large) 130/180

Cucumbers (small) 260/180

Eggplant 260/180

Garlic 240/180

Grape Fruit 240/180

Green beans 240/180

Leek 160/100

Lemon 120/160

Marrow (large) 240/180

Marrow (small) 240/180

Olives (green) 240/180

Orange 240/180

Onion (dry) 500/400

Onion (green) 500/400

Pea 250/180

Pepper (hot) 220/600

Pepper (sweet) 320/350

Potato 540/400

Radish 350/200

Spinach 120/80

Tomato 120/80

String beans 660/400

Majali instructs JVA to expedite development of Dead Sea coast

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Monday instructed the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) to expedite the development of the eastern coast of the Dead Sea in view of its touristic importance to the Kingdom.

Speaking during a visit to the JVA in Amman, Dr. Majali said that every effort should be exerted also to develop the regions south of the Dead Sea in the Wadi Araba area in implementation of a JVA plan involving the water resources there.

Flood waters should be efficiently stored and utilised for

irrigation purposes, and work on dams should be accelerated to ensure that goal, said the prime minister.

Dr. Majali instructed JVA officials to speed up work on the Walch and Mujib dams in the south since a related feasibility study has been completed, adding that efforts should now focus on financing this scheme.

He urged that water supplies be made sufficiently available in the coming summer, and treated waste water provide an important source for irrigating trees.

The prime minister's visit came one week after JVA Secretary General Abdul Aziz Wisbah announced that the country's dams are still far below capacity despite the heavy March rains.

The largest Dam in the country, the King Talal Dam, now holds 48 million cubic metres of water out of an overall capacity of 80 million.

The JVA also announced the completion of a study on the proposed construction of Al Karamah dam in the Jordan Valley which is designed to hold 55 million cubic metres of water.



PRODUCTIVE FAMILIES: Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Monday opens "The Productive Families Exhibition," held to mark International Family Day. Princess Basma toured the exhibition's various sections displaying preserved foods, embroideries, rugs, ceramics and other handicrafts produced by Jordanian families as part of income-generating projects sponsored by voluntary societies around the Kingdom. The exhibition, which is organised by the National Committee for Inter-

national Year of the Family in cooperation with the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF), the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), charitable and voluntary societies affiliated to the Ministry of Social Development and the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS), aims to acquaint the public with income-generating projects launched in Jordan. The exhibition is being held at King Abdullah Gardens (Petra photo)

German labour minister arrives for talks

AMMAN (Petra) — German Minister of Labour and Social Affairs Norbert Blum Monday arrived in Amman on a four-day official visit.

Mr. Blum and the accompanying delegation will hold talks with senior Jordanian officials on bilateral relations.

He is also scheduled to meet with Labour Minister Khaled Ghazawi for talks in labour-related collaboration

and attempts taken by the two countries to organise their labour markets as well as to fight unemployment.

The German official will also visit several Palestinian refugee camps around the Kingdom. Mrs. Blum, who is accompanying the minister, will call at several Jordanian women's organisations and institutions.

Mr. Blum, of the

Christian-Democratic Party, has been serving as minister for 12 years.

He was received at the airport by Mr. Gbawli, Minister of Social Development, and Mr. Mobammad Sqour, senior officials and the German Ambassador to Jordan Heinrich Reiners.

Later Monday, Mr. Blum and his team visited several archaeological sites in Madaba.

Visiting Turkish team explores cooperation with university

AMMAN (Petra) — Cultural and Scientific cooperation between the University of Jordan and Cukurova University of Turkey was explored Monday at a meeting held at the University of Jordan between a visiting Turkish delegation and University President Fawzi Gharaibeh, with special emphasis on agriculture and sciences.

He briefed the visiting delegation on the University of Jordan's development, training programmes and research projects, focusing on agriculture.

The Turkish team met with Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture Bassam Snobar and discussed cooperation.

launch technological, industrial and investment cooperation between Jordanian and Turkish businesspersons.

The council will operate via two units grouping Turkish and Jordanian businesspersons who would meet at least biannually to examine achievements and chart future plan, according to the statement.

Dr. Gharaibeh spoke about the prospect of concluding an agreement that would also provide for the exchange of visiting faculty members and post graduate students and the possibility of conducting joint research projects and collaborating on scientific publications.

Joint trade council formed

Also Monday, the Jordanian Businessmen's Association (JBA) announced the establishment of a Jordanian-Turkish Business Council, adding that a ceremony will be held here Saturday to inaugurate the council.

A JBA statement said the council would help to encourage trade exchanges and

It said that the council will address potential problems in the trade exchange, organise joint trade fairs and deal with other urgent issues.

The statement said the JBA has already established joint councils of businesspersons with Egypt and Canada to promote trade with the two countries.

16 persons named as suspects in illegal archaeological activities

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Department of Antiquities Monday said it has referred the names of 16 persons to the Public Security Department (PSD) on suspicion of conducting unauthorised archaeological excavations in the southern Jordan Valley region.

He said the stolen artefacts included pottery, bowls and candle sticks, adding that most of them were found in ancient cemeteries.

It is illegal to conduct excavations for the purpose of

obtaining artefacts without the knowledge and permission of the Department of Antiquities, said Dr. Tell.

He said the Ghor Safi region is known to be abundant with archaeological sites where the department has been carrying out excavations.

Acting in cooperation with the department's office in Karak, Department of Archaeology teams have been able to identify 16 persons sus-

pected of the illicit involvement and have retrieved artefacts dug up at the Nage' site in the Ghor Safi region and the neighbouring cemeteries, department Director General Safwan Tell told the Jordan Times.

Dr. Tell said the 16 persons are suspected of intending to sell artefacts from these sites, a violation of Jordanian laws, he explained.

WHAT'S GOING ON

- ★ Art exhibition by artist Ahmed Nawar at Balka Art Gallery in Fuhels (daily from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.) (Tel. 720902).
- ★ Computer exhibition at the National Amman University.
- ★ Photo exhibition of the Hashemites and the heroic deeds of the Jordanian Armed Forces at the Jordan Zaitounah University.
- ★ Film on German city Hamburg on its 800th anniversary at Goethe-Institut at 6:00 p.m.

LECTURES

- ★ Lecture entitled "The Current Status of the Palestine Cause" by Fatah Central Committee member Hani Al Hassan at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman at 5:30 p.m.
- ★ Lecture entitled "The Peace Process and its Impacts on the Local and Arab Levels" by Mr. Marwan Duda in the Arab Youth Forum headquarters on Wasfi Tal Street at 5:00 p.m.
- ★ Lecture on the sculpture of Jordanian artist Samer Al Tabbaa with the participation of artists Rafe' Naseri and Khalid Khreis at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman

Strategic conference ends with suggestions on how to put the Arab 'house' in order

By Natasha Bukhari
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Participants in the Third Arab Strategic Conference agreed Monday that division and differences among Arab states would deny Arabs any significant role in the new world order, but they offered methods of putting the Arab "house" in order.

"Arabs scored more goals within the confines of the United Nations organisation than they did in the Arab League," said Gilan Ramez an Iraqi lecturer at the University of Jordan.

Under the general title of "Arabs and the United Nations," Dr. Ramez and Hassan Nafa'a, an Egyptian political science professor at the University of Cairo debated the Arab role in benefiting from the U.N.'s structural and organisational arbitrary change despite the organisation's double standard policy which it implemented in full

during and after the Gulf War.

"Diplomatic movement is the key answer, without which Arabs have no chance of enforcing a certain point of view," said Dr. Nafa'a.

Dr. Ramez focused in his presentation on the fact that peace-keeping measures employed by the Security Council reflect harmony between its members, which, according to the speaker, is an incentive for Arabs to work on improving their international relations to expand their influence in the council.

The speakers described the U.N.'s double standards as a reflection of the supremacy of power which explains the U.S.'s control over the organisation's decision.

"There are no changes in the values involved," explained Dr. Ramez pointing to historical proof that "the law of the jungle" always prevails.

Still both speakers did not dismiss all hope for a brighter

future for the Arabs.

Rather they pointed to the diplomatic option of winning the support of Russia, whose multi-nationalistic political orientation, they concurred, prevents the U.S. from accommodating all its needs for a harmonious existence under the American umbrella.

In the conference's final and brief discussion, speakers and organisers summed up the calibre of the papers presented and the value of the discussion sessions, but paid particular attention to the obvious contrast in the approach to addressing the issues on the conference agenda.

Mustafa Hamarneh, a historian, warned against labelling the contrast as "their point of view as opposed to ours," referring to the participating Egyptian and Jordanian political researches and analysts.

Dr. Hamarneh, director of the Centre for Strategic Stud-

dies (CSS) at the University of Jordan, said that despite the difference in approach, the Egyptians "realism" and the historical-based research of the Jordanians were manifestations of the debate's "unrestricted and free" nature, characteristic of an academic and intellectual conference.

Senator and former Foreign minister Kamel Abu Jaber said that the issues at hand can be approached either realistically or be totally rejected, and that the search for truth should not be impeded by "the painful reality" of the current stage of collapse of national security in the Arab World.

Dr. Nafa'a urged attendees to stick to the issues being debated instead of reverting to the denial approach of "not hearing." He was referring to the numerous irrelevant comments and questions by attendees which revolved around the "united" Arab nation.

passive attitude of denying Arab disintegration will get Arabs nowhere in terms of reversing the U.N.'s unsympathetic stand towards the Arabs.

At the end of the conference, Usama Ghazali, president of the Arab Political Scientist Association urged all Arabs to "have the courage to face the bitter truth (concerning our poor state of affairs)," adding that Arabs should now concentrate on their own mishaps rather than blame others on their misfortune.

Dr. Hamarneh said that the conference had succeeded in achieving the desired results, most important of which was the realisation that to improve the Arab's foreign political relations, Arabs should start with "internal reform."

The 3-day conference was organised by the CSS, the Centre for Political and Strategic Studies of Al Ahran in Cairo and the Arab Political Science Association.

Political coalition seeks pull-out from peace talks

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An Islamist/ leftist coalition Monday marked the one-month anniversary of the Hebron massacre by calling on Arab and Muslim governments to pull out of peace negotiations with Israel.

"We, together with the Arab masses, must continue to exert pressure on the Arab regimes and the Palestine Liberation Organisation to give up the policy of surrender and stop their negotiations with the Zionist entity," read a joint statement issued by the two Jordanian political parties, the Islamic Action Front (IAF) and the National Action Front (NAF).

"Our conflict with the Zionist entity is the struggle over existence not over borders," said the statement.

The coalition leaders, which include IAF Secretary General Ismaq Farhan and former leftist radicals Mohammad Zoubi, Najj Allush and Breik Hadid, asked the "Arab nation to resist all attempts of normalisation with the Zionist entity," during a joint press conference.

"We warn the Arab regimes and the Arab League of the dangers inherent in lifting the Arab boycott of the Zionist entity," read their joint statement. To lift the boycott, said the group, would constitute the imposition of further "Zionist domination and occupation."

The coalition, also known as the United Front, said it held the media partially responsible for supporting the peace process.

"We call on the free and honest press to shoulder its responsibilities in highlighting the plight of Palestine and to actively counter normalisation policies in all their forms as well as to expose the cheap writers promoting normalisation with the Zionist enemy," said the statement.

The IAF, recognised as Jordan's most powerful political party, and NAF a relatively new political party, announced that they were "coalition partners" in early March. Their declared aim is to "resist Zionist designs and new world order strategies to disrupt the Middle East region," according to IAF Secretary General Ismaq Farhan.

The NAF, which only received official political party licence in January, is composed mostly of hardline pan-Arab nationalist parties and groups, many of whom were outlawed in Jordan before democratic reforms were introduced in 1989.

The coalition between the two parties was formed after the February killing of worshippers at the Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron and the subsequent attack on a Maronite church in Lebanon.

The two parties declared that they had a "historic responsibility" to work together to actively oppose the normalisation of Arab countries with Israel.

Nine local firms strike deals with Gulf

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Nine out of 20 Jordanian firms that participated in the International Spring Trade Fair in Dubai from March 16 to 21 have concluded deals with trade agents to help market Jordanian products in the Gulf region, according to Kamal Qaqish, vice president of the Jordan Trade Association (JTA) and Halim Abu Rahmeh, JTA executive director.

Jordanian businesspersons have succeeded in contracting agents in Dubai to help market Jordanian ceramics, herbs, detergents, office furniture and gas ranges; and others made direct trade deals with local businessmen. Messrs. Qaqish and Abu Rahmeh told a press conference following their return to Amman.

The family notified all police stations and hospitals in Jerash, and also placed an advertisement in local newspapers with a photo of the girl.

"I did not expect my daughter to leave home since there were no arguments before her disappearance," Mr. Mustafa told the Jordan Times.

The troubled father said he had no idea where his daughter

Danish study group arrives

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A Danish delegation including former and serving government officials, lawyers, political scientists, businessmen, academicians, economists and journalists arrived here Monday on a three-day visit as part of a study tour of the Middle East.

During their stay here, members of the nearly 50-strong delegation are expected to be received by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

The delegation will also meet with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan, former Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber who now heads the World Affairs Council, Islamic Action Front (IAF) Secretary-General Ismaq Farhan, and Lower House of Parliament Member Toujan Falsaf, Jordan's sole elected female member of the legislature, said an official at the Danish consulate here.

The delegation, which arrived from Syria after a two-day visit there, will leave for Israel on Thursday.

The study tour of the delegation is aimed at getting firsthand information on the Middle East peace process and the positions of various parties involved in the 28-month-old Arab-Israeli peace negotiations.

The visit of the delegation, the first of its kind in recent years, stemmed from the breakthrough in the peace process signalled by the Sept. 13 agreement signed between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the agenda for peace talks signed by Jordan and Israel on Sept. 14.

Denmark has traditionally supported Middle East peace efforts and has played an active role through the European Union (EU) and the United Nations in trying to advance Arab-Israeli peace talks.

The trip is organised by the Copenhagen-based Danish Foreign Policy Society, a private non-profit and independent association founded in 1946 with the aim of "stimulating public sector interest in and knowledge about foreign affairs," according to a paper "describing its activities."

Serving government officials join the society in their individual capacities, and the society stressed that it is "not affiliated with any political party or any other organisation, and it is not tied to any commercial interests" and that "it takes no stands on any political issues, but functions as an information centre, a point of contact, a forum for enlightened debate."

Among the members of the delegation now in Jordan are a

former minister of commerce and industry, Arne Christensen, parliament members and political activists, several university professors, heads of companies and economists as well as journalists.

Troels Munk, who has served as ambassador to several Middle Eastern countries including Jordan in the 60s, 70s, and 80s, is also a member of the delegation.

The society noted that an official from the government's board of security and disarmament is also in the delegation but that "it is not under instruction from the government or any Danish authorities."

The Danish Foreign Policy Society has 1,100 individual members and a further 300 are also members through institutional and corporate memberships. It is presently chaired by Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, a member of parliament and former minister of foreign affairs.

The society organises an average of 12 to 16 lecture and discussion meetings in Copenhagen with prominent speakers from Denmark and abroad, "typically politicians, officials, publicists or academics."

The current Middle East trip is part of the society's regular annual study tours abroad "to a country or countries of particular topic interest from a foreign affairs viewpoint."

Jerash girl missing since March 18

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Police and family members are looking for a 16-year-old Jerash girl missing since March 18 in what appeared to be the first reported case of its kind in several months.

Souzan, the second daughter of Mustafa A., a construction worker who lives in Jerash camp, left home on her own and did not return that Friday evening.

The family notified all police stations and hospitals in Jerash, and also placed an advertisement in local newspapers with a photo of the girl.

"I did not expect my daughter to leave home since there were no arguments before her disappearance," Mr. Mustafa told the Jordan Times.

The troubled father said he had no idea where his daughter

might be.

"I went to all her friends' houses, checked all places that my daughter might have gone to, but there is no trace of her," he said.

A close neighbour of the family told the Jordan Times that there have been some problems in Souzan's family and that the father has a second wife. The neighbour, who preferred anonymity, said it is possible that the girl left home because of family troubles.

He said the girl took all her belongings with her and "she even took all papers and documents that are related to her."

According to the father, Souzan, one of his 11 children, does not attend school.

An official at Jerash Police Station confirmed the missing person case, adding that a search was still on for the girl.

Missing boy found

In a separate incident, a 13-year-old boy who was also reported missing on March 18 was found working at a construction site, according to the boy's father.

Mr. Joumah told the Jordan Times that the family's advertisement in local newspapers about his son Amer's disappearance was responded to by several calls from individuals, which led to the boy's whereabouts.

The father said police were expected to return the boy to his custody.

The father, a merchant in the Amman area, said that his son could not have been working because he is too young.

"There needs to be some solid basis in the country; how can someone hire a 13-year-old without knowing his background, or if his parents agree to his working?"

Experts to discuss Jordan's small scale industries

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Outreach-Consultation Project (OCP) of the Industrial Engineering Department of the University of Jordan jointly with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) today open an expert group meeting

to discuss the issues and problems of small scale industries (SSIs).

According to the meeting's organisers, SSIs represent a major opportunity for employment and provide the industrial sector with spare parts and semi-finished products. Many of those industries represent the nucleus of future medium

and large industries.

In the industrially advanced countries, small scale industries are considered important to the economy, and therefore receive special attention and support. Their particular characteristics, say the organisers of the two-day meeting, warrant an exclusive focus.

The objectives of the meet-

ing, as outlined by OCP and USAID, include identifying major problems and issues common to SSIs, appropriate solutions to those issues and problems, and the institutions which are most capable of carrying out the solutions.

The meeting will also seek to establish a mechanism for

coordinating the work of those institutions and SSIs.

In all, nine papers (written in Arabic) will be presented over the two days.

The meeting will be held at the Said Al Mufli Auditorium at the College of Engineering and Technology of the University of Jordan.

Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh at 6:00 p.m.

NEWS HOUR

- ★ ABC Weekly News Highlights and the MacNeil-Lehrer News Hour at the American Center at 5:00 p.m.

THE FIRST AMMAN THEATRE FESTIVAL

- ★ Drama entitled "A Very Symbolic Play" at the main theatre at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Drama entitled "A Midsummer Night's Dream" by the

Ahliya School at the studio theatre at the Royal Cultural Centre at 6:00 p.m.

POETRY RECITAL

- ★ Poetry recital by Dr. Ibrahim Al Khatib at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture at 7:00 p.m.

OPERA RECITAL

- ★ Opera recital by Italian Soprano Katia Ricciardielli, presented by the National Music Conservatory - Noor Al Hussein Foundation and the Italian Embassy in Amman, at the Philadelphia Hotel at 8:00 p.m.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975
جورديان تايمز رويدي عربية سياسية مستقلة منشورة بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:

MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:

MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephone: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

The View from Fourth Circle

Is tourism a blessing or a potential catastrophe?

By Rami G. Khouri

Due to the ongoing restructuring of the Jordanian economy and the tantalising prospect of a major expansion in tourism in the Middle East in the wake of a possible Arab-Israeli peace settlement, the tourism sector in Jordan now requires a major national reassessment.

In the last several decades, tourism has been an important contributor of foreign exchange to the economy, and it has played a constructive role in promoting people-to-people contacts between Jordanians and visitors from other, mainly western, countries. There are potential economic, cultural and environmental hazards in unchecked tourism growth in the near future, however, especially if we allow commercial market forces to run their course without an appropriate context and strategy for tourism development in our country. These hazards require immediate and serious analysis if we are to escape the pitfalls of mass tourism that have plagued many other developing countries.

The cultural and environmental dangers are the most serious issues to be addressed, followed by the economic. Tourism can be a great gatherer of people from different cultures who can learn about, enjoy and, therefore, respect one another — a useful service in the context of today's world. Yet, the cultural hazards of mass tourism can also hurt the visitors from abroad and our own people.

Foreign tourists and Jordanians who participate in a cross-cultural dynamic driven primarily by the urge to make money may ultimately find their values distorted by the triumph of commercialism over cross-cultural interaction. We regularly bear complaints by tourists who feel they have been cheated or mistreated due to a combination of inadequate services or greedy Jordanians. While complaints are relatively few and satisfaction is the dominant sentiment that tourists express after visiting Jordan, the advent of large-scale tourism expansion will inevitably increase incidents of Jordanians trying to maximise their economic gains from visiting tourists.

The impact of tourism on Jordanian culture and values is equally serious. I remember visiting Petra 20 years ago, when the children of Petra would wave hello to visitors and their parents would invite visitors into their homes for a cup of tea. Today, children in Petra routinely welcome visitors with a new request: take my picture, and give me a dollar. Many people who provide tourism services also ask for and expect a large tip, and if the sum offered is not up to their expectations they make their displeasure known.

Some tourism vendors also routinely overcharge foreign tourists, especially for souvenirs, books, transport and other items. Our liberal capitalist economy allows the market to set prices, free of government price controls; but overpricing has the unfortunate effect of transforming that brief contact between Jordanian seller and foreign tourist from a moment of mutually satisfying human interaction to a dynamic characterised by exploitation, suspicion, hesitation and a possible loss of satisfaction and gain by both parties. Another problem that we have lived with for years is that of local residents illegally excavating antiquities sites in order to find ancient pottery and other artifacts that fetch a high price on the local and international black market.

In other words, the traditional warm Jordanian hospitality and our identification with our land and its heritage are slowly being eroded by the powerful force of commercial gain. "Take my picture and give me a dollar" is a degrading and inhuman phenomenon that reflects the economic need of some families, but also a deterioration of their cultural values and even of their very humanity. It would be an act of criminal negligence and cultural catastrophe if our younger generations grew up relating to their antiquities primarily as a means of earning income in the short term, while forgetting the important lessons about enduring human communities that are inherent in our many archaeological sites. Such a development is not necessarily an inevitability and it should not be allowed to occur or to expand.

"It would be an act of criminal negligence and cultural catastrophe if our younger generations grew up relating to their antiquities primarily as a means of earning income in the short term, while forgetting the important lessons about enduring human communities that are inherent in our many archaeological sites. Such a development is not necessarily an inevitability and it should not be allowed to occur or to expand."

Environmentally, our tourist sites and their wider natural environment are very fragile. Petra, Wadi Rum, Aqaba, Jerash, the Desert Castles, Pella and many other leading attractions have endured for thousands of years because our society traditionally maintained a sustainable balance between its human, environmental and economic resources. That balance is in clear danger of being tilted towards the primary goal of commercial profit.

The consequences of degrading the natural environment are perhaps even more serious than degrading the cultural environment. A new generation of children can always be given back their self-respect, but environmental decay of our land and water resources is often irreversible. What happens to the indigenous Jordanian population two generations from now, for example, if the groundwater resources of Petra and Aqaba have been depleted due to servicing foreign tourists, or if the earth in Wadi Rum and Petra is irrevocably poisoned by dumping wastes from hotels?

The macro-economic benefits of tourism are self-evident, in the form of jobs, demand for locally manufactured goods, and increased foreign exchange receipts. What is not clear, though, is whether this process is sustainable or desirable in the long run. We could easily attract other several hundred thousand tourists a year, but at what cost to our environment,

economy and human culture? How much is the real, net economic gain from tourism in Jordan?

Some foreign donors have already studied this issue and concluded that tourism, on balance, is worth promoting on the basis of its economic benefits, it remains for Jordanians, working with our friends and colleagues from abroad, to define precisely how we can maximise the real economic gains from tourism, while also making sure that such gains can be sustained into the indefinite future.

Another critical point that has to be addressed is the net benefit of tourism to the local residents who live in and around the tourist sites. The main commercial winners from tourism are the tour operators in Amman and overseas. The economic cost-benefit equation has to be adjusted so that the primary beneficiaries of tourism — economically, environmentally and culturally — are the villagers who live at the tourist sites. If they derive meaningful and continuous gains from tourism that is culturally and environmentally sensitive, they will be the first to demand adequate protection of their local antiquities and natural attractions.

If the primary beneficiaries continue to reside in Amman and foreign capitals, however, our archaeological and tourism resource base will be slowly eroded by the irrepressible force of short-term financial gain. It seems to me, therefore, that the priorities we should embrace in adjusting our tourism and antiquities sector strategy should be as follows: the local inhabitants of the tourist sites, our natural environment (including the antiquities sites that form its historical environment), our national cultural values, our long-term national economic viability, the wishes of international tourists and the commercial interests of Jordanian and international companies working in the tourism sector. A quick glance at tourism in Jordan today suggests that our existing priorities are exactly the reverse of this order that I propose.

These are complex and politically difficult issues that we have largely evaded because the scale of the problems they reflect has always been relatively small in Jordan. The next decade, though, will quickly magnify these problems and threats and transform them from nagging and occasional irritations to enormous perils to our natural and cultural heritage. This is not an issue that can be addressed only by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, because the government and the overall political system in Jordan do not assign high priority to tourism and antiquities.

The ministry and the Department of Antiquities have done good work in recent years, but they lack both the financial and the human resources to confront the challenges that loom on the horizon. Boosting their political and financial support would be a logical first step in addressing the challenges.

We have a successful and generally intelligent strategy to attract tourists and to develop our tourism infrastructure. But do we have a strategy to protect our land, our ancient heritage, our cultural values and our very humanity from the imminent dangers that we can already identify?

© Rami G. Khouri 1994

Choice that had to be

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein said it loud and clear yesterday: Jordan has always abided by international legitimacy, it has always advocated peace, and in the case of Iraq it abided by all U.N. Security Council resolutions; yet, Jordan was being singled out for punishment through the naval blockade against Aqaba. Well, if Jordan is being considered a spoiler as far as the sanctions on Iraq are concerned, then let it be; Jordan can spoil the ongoing peace process, or at least freeze its positive role in it.

As far as Jordan is concerned peace that will not address the interest of the Jordanian people is not a peace that we should fight for. It is not worth pursuing. And Jordan cannot and should not pursue the effort if war is being waged against it. After all, a blockade, like that which the U.S. navy is leading against Aqaba is, in accordance with international law, a state of war.

The U.S., Britain, Israel, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have all vested interests in keeping the sanctions on Iraq intact; especially the oil sale embargo. The Israeli prime minister, Yitzhak Rabin, recently said he wanted peace with his immediate neighbours so that Israel would then confront its second-tier enemies. He named Iraq and Iran. Britain and the U.S. have in the past four years signed multi-billion dollar contracts with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait for the sale of arms, and any lifting of the sanctions against Iraq would inevitably lead to a reduction of oil prices which, in turn, would lead to a glut that would hurt Saudi and Kuwaiti coffers, forcing possibly a cancellation of these contracts. That would be a blow to the British and American economies, which perhaps explains why it is the Americans and the British who insist most on maintaining the sanctions.

Jordan need not be caught in this web of entanglement. The Kingdom has been asking the Americans all along to ease the blockade on Aqaba, to find another way of keeping the pressure on Iraq. The government has tabled many practical proposals for this purpose, and even accepted solutions that could compromise our sovereignty on our own land. But it seems all Jordanian pleas have been falling on deaf ears. The fact that most of the ships destined for Aqaba are then diverted to Saudi and Egyptian ports for unloading and reloading seems to be a very sinister business aimed at profiting some people at our expense.

Jordan will not tolerate this situation any more. If peace is for all to enjoy it should not be denied the Jordanian people or state. We will do what we can to make this abundantly clear, as his Majesty did yesterday.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily drew attention to a dangerous practice on the part of the private and the public laboratories in Jordan, nothing that they dump their waste which sometimes is radioactive into the garbage containers or in the sewerage system, thus causing untold dangerous effects to public health. Nazih said that the dumped solid materials are normally carried by workers and transported by garbage trucks to the garbage sites which are located not far from urban regions and populated districts. Only God knows the extent of danger radioactive materials cause to human health as a result of his practice, because the garbage containers and the dump sites are often scavenged by certain groups that collect substances for recycling them and the garbage containers in the streets are not isolated from the members of the public, added the writer. Apart from the fact that these materials are polluting the environment, added the writer, they are indeed a source of grave danger to the public. He said it is the responsibility of the Health Ministry to prevent such a practice by the laboratories, and it is the responsibility of the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment to make sure that nothing and no one should be allowed to contaminate the environment.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour said that the United States continues to exercise pressure on Jordan by all available means in order to force the country to sign a separate peace treaty with Israel without the attainment of permanent and durable settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict. Saleh Qallab said that the siege on Aqaba is only part of the American pressure on this country which adheres firmly to its nationalist stand and its principles. It seems that the United States has found no reason to give any consideration to Jordan's importance following the signing of the Oslo deal, and so it has been indifferent to Jordan's national interests and disregarding the Kingdom's pivotal position, said the writer. He said that it is not possible for drawing up any plans for the Middle East region without taking into consideration the Kingdom's national interests and the country's geographic, historic and political position. Washington, stressed the writer, should realise that its desires do not constitute a legitimacy of which the people of the region are convinced.

Russia's new assertiveness troubles U.S.

By Stephane Bentura
Agence France Presse

WASHINGTON — After working hard for more than two years to nurture a post-cold war partnership with Russia, the United States is finding Moscow's new diplomatic assertiveness an embarrassment and a problem.

From an increasingly active sponsorship of the Bosnian Serbs to its latest proposal Thursday to hold a conference on the North Korean nuclear crisis, the Kremlin has been raising its profile on the international scene.

The United States, which once saw itself as a mentor of Russia's democratic reforms, is now trying to cope with an unpredictable partner driven more by rising nationalism than attention to the Washington-Moscow axis.

Adding to the White House's unease is Russia's new-found determination to reestablish its sphere of influence over its old stomping grounds before the breakup of the Soviet Union in December 1991.

On Tuesday, Deputy Defence Minister General Georgi Kondratiev rejected the idea that Russian soldiers could be replaced by outside forces in hotspots in the confederation of independent states.

Russian has jealously guarded its prerogatives as policeman in the former Soviet republics, and Gen. Kondratiev said that Moscow "considers peacekeeping operations as a vital element of its foreign policy."

Such statements and the deployment of Russian troops in the Caucasus and Central Asian regions have started to worry officials in the Pentagon who had just been getting used to treating Russia as a friend, not an enemy.

U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry said before his trip to Moscow this month that it was not impossible Russia could emerge from its political upheavals as an authoritarian, imperialistic threat.

President Bill Clinton told a news conference Thursday that Washington's relationship with Moscow is still sound "on balance," and added, "when we disagree, we will say so. And we will act accordingly."

He said the Russians have been helpful in bringing some measure of peace to Bosnia. "We've got a long way to go,

But we've had some real success, and I'm hopeful that they will (contribute) elsewhere."

But even Mr. Clinton is sometimes left wondering what the Russians are up to in areas such as the Middle East where the two countries are co-sponsors of the current peace efforts.

After PLO chief Yasser Arafat held an impromptu meeting with a Russian envoy in Tunis, Mr. Clinton acknowledged last week that the United States was no longer fully informed of all of Moscow's initiatives.

U.S. officials also said that when Moscow proposed a conference on North Korea's refusal to allow inspection of its nuclear sites, it merely informed Washington but did not consult.

Russia has staunchly insisted on the fact that no major international issues be resolved without its involvement. But some analysts wonder whether its clout matches its rhetoric.

"There is a real problem between the lack of resources and the wish to be treated as a superpower," said Harley Balzer, director of the Department of Russian Studies at George Washington University.

U.S. officials point to solid achievements in their relations with the Russians, notably cooperation on nuclear disarmament and Russia's willingness to join NATO's partnership for peace programme.

The silver lining in the new rivalry between the two countries is that it has sparked a "peace race" to replace the old arms race, with both sides trying to outdo each other in diplomacy, one U.S. official said.

While the United States was brokering a federation agreement between Bosnian Muslims and Croats last week, Russia was preparing peace talks between Croatia and separatist Serbs in the country's Krajina region.

Last Friday, Washington had to go along with the U.N. Security Council's condemnation of the massacre in a West Bank Mosque as the price for restarting the Middle East peace dialogue.

But Mr. Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will be in Moscow around the same time in the middle of next month, sparking speculation they could hold new talks on details of plans for Palestinian autonomy.

America's duty to the wide world starts at home

By George F. Kennan

NEW YORK — I am reminded that it was 47 years ago that my involvement with the Council on Foreign Relations began in earnest. At the end of 1946, I had addressed a dinner at which I spoke about the Russia of that day. This led to a further meeting, in January, this time with the council's newly established Discussion Group on Soviet Foreign Policy.

It was shortly thereafter that Ham Armstrong, as editor of Foreign Affairs, wrote to me asking me to set forth in an article for that journal the gist of what I had been saying on these occasions about Russia and Soviet-American relations. What came out of this approach was what became known as the "X" article. And this was the beginning of my life of sin as a participant in the public discussion of Soviet-American relations.

Now first, a word or two from the perspective of 47 intervening years, about what was being discussed at those early meetings. What I was then advocating for our government was a policy of "containment" of Soviet expansionist pressures, a policy aimed at halting the expansion of Soviet power into Central and Western Europe. I viewed this as primarily a diplomatic and political task, though not wholly without military implications.

I considered that if and when we had succeeded in persuading the Soviet leadership that the continuation of these expansionist pressures not only held out for them no hopes for success but would be, in many respects, to their disadvantage, then the moment would have come for serious talks with them about the future of Europe.

But when, some three years later, this moment had arrived — when we had made our point with the Marshall Plan, with the successful resistance to the Berlin blockade and other measures — when the lesson I wanted to see us convey to Moscow had been successfully conveyed, then it was one of the great disappointments of my life to discover that neither our government nor our West European allies had any interest in entering into such discussions at all.

What they and the others wanted from Moscow, with respect to the future of Europe, was essentially "unconditional surrender." They were prepared to wait for it. This was



the beginning of the 40 years of cold war.

Those of my opponents of that day who have survived into the present age would say, I am sure: "You see. We were right. The collapse of the Soviet system amounted to the unconditional surrender we envisaged — an involuntary one if you will, but surrender nevertheless. And we paid nothing for it."

To which I should have to reply: "But we did pay a great deal for it. We paid with 40 years of enormous and otherwise unnecessary military expenditures. We paid through the cultivation of nuclear weaponry to the point where the vast and useless nuclear arsenals had become (and remain today) a danger to the very environment of the planet."

"It is primarily by example, never by precept, that a country such as ours exerts the most useful influence beyond its borders, but remembering, too, that there are limits to what any one sovereign country can do to help another, and that unless we preserve the quality, the vigour and the morale of our own society, we will be of little use to anyone at all."

"And we paid with 40 years of Communist control in Eastern Germany, Czechoslovakia and Hungary, the damages of which to the structure of civilisation in those countries we are only now beginning to observe. We paid all of this because we were too timid to negotiate."

We will never know who was right and who wrong. One course was tried. Its consequences, good and bad, are visible. The other remained hypothetical. Its results will never be known.

We are now in a new age, an age which, for all its confusions and dangers, is marked by one major blessing: for the first time in centuries, there are no great-power rivalries that threaten immediately the peace of the world. We must

do all in our power to see that things remain this way.

But aside from that one encouraging situation, what we see is a highly unsettled and unstable world — a world full of squabbles, conflicts and violent encounters — some without dangers to world peace and stability. This presents a challenge for which we are poorly prepared.

For more than 60 years, the attention of our policymakers and public opinion was monopolised by the effort to respond to what appeared to be, and sometimes were, great and overriding dangers — the Nazis, the Japanese militarists, then Stalin's Russia. Our statesmen and our public are unaccustomed to reacting to a world situation that offers no such great and all-absorbing focal points for policy.

some sort of a grand strategy with which to meet all our problems, they would say, I suspect, something like the following:

"Why do you want anything like that? Yes, of course, your world is complex. So are ours. But many of these troublesome situations that bother you do not really threaten your interests. Even for those that do, there could be no single grand design — no vast common denominator — that would tell you how each of them should be approached. Each has to be judged on its merit. Discard, then, this traditional American fondness for trying to solve problems by putting them into broad categories."

"What you need are not policies — much less a single policy. What you need are sound principles: principles that accord with the nature, the needs, the interests and the limitations of our country."

Some of these principles seem to be relatively immutable. A number were enunciated by John Quincy Adams in his great Fourth of July speech of 1821, and they have lost none of their relevance. Adams observed that if America should enlist under other banners than her own, "were they even the banners of foreign independence, she would involve herself beyond the power of extrication, in all the wars of interest and intrigue, of individual avarice, envy and ambition, which assume the colours and usurp the standard of freedom."

Principles, too, have of course to be reviewed and adjusted to meet the particular challenges of the time.

And if you were to ask what such principles might be today, I could only say: "Look closely at our own society. Look at its strengths and weaknesses, at its successes and failures, at the possibilities and the dangers that confront it."

"And then ask yourselves how such a country ought to shape its foreign relations in such a way as to help it to be what it could be to itself and to its world environment, bearing in mind, of course, that it is primarily by example, never by precept, that a country such as ours exerts the most useful influence beyond its borders — remembering, too, that there are limits to what any one sovereign country can do to help another, and that unless we preserve the quality, the vigour and the morale of our own society, we will be of little use to anyone at all."

The New York Times.

Egyptian artist expresses the 'pain' of creation

By Ica Wahbeh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — In keeping with the tradition of good quality art, Balka's Art Gallery in Fuhis is exhibiting the works of yet another prominent Egyptian artist, painter Ahmad Nawar.

The elegant frames capture the eye and impose in a majestic way. Stylised birds, sometimes dual eagle/dove representations, are imprisoned in geometrical constructions and grids, passing through painful metamorphoses, from birth to death and from confinement to freedom, at times assuming voluptuous, sensual positions, but at all times projecting an image of pain and suffering

inherent in the process of creation and thus symbolic of the artist himself.

The painstakingly detailed and precise ink images at close range, assume abstract dimensions when viewed as a whole, thus making a smooth transition to the next group of dark, abstract paintings.

The powerful frames demonstrate a perfect sense of proportion and an exquisite mastery of colour combination. The drawings catch the eye with their colourful centres, inviting the imagination to decipher the hidden meaning behind images reminding of Michelangelo's anatomical sketches.

The grid is omnipresent in the artist's works. Stylised

greyish white birds, in a third set of paintings, are entangled in perfect, red, orange, ochre grids on a bi- or tricolour background parted into intersecting stripes that form geometrical shapes admirably complementing the foreground images.

The interesting installations in a room adjacent are a logic extension of the ink and acrylic paintings.

Here, different levels combine to present the abstract painting of a grid, in the foreground, topped by a wooden coloured grid covering a mirrored room that reflects the different colours of the lattice work from the inside and finished, on the upper, shallow part in a grid drawn on the blue back-

ground to create an optical illusion and a perfect companion to the installation below.

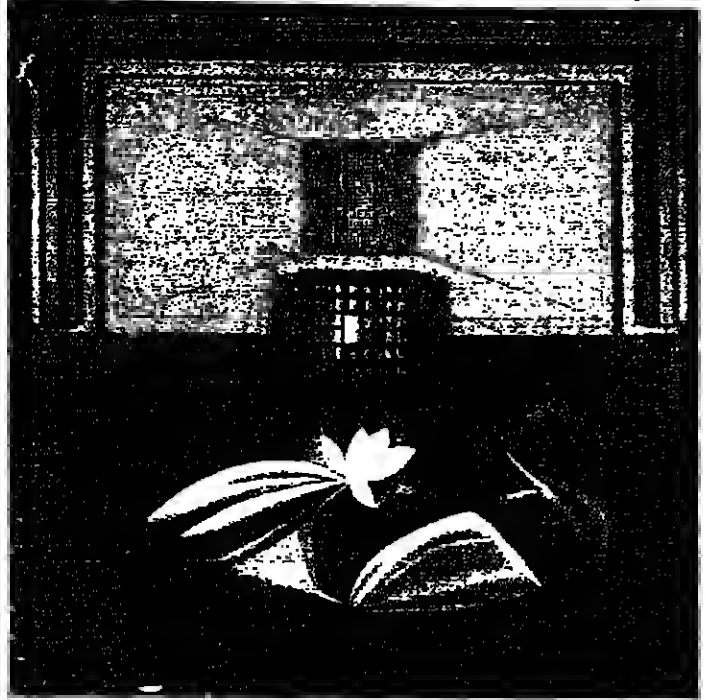
Taking on different colours, sizes and shaped, the installation is present, with slight variations, in four other works. Geometrical figures, the stylised bird and the mirror are leit motifs. Additions are mechanical contraptions (springs, coils) or an electronic plate whose fine connection lines complement the grid and are proof that the artist is receptive to and inspired by life realities.

Colours in the installations are usually on the dark side: burgundy, olive green or blue, highlighted by brighter ones, especially those of the grids which are red, orange or anil blue.

Next are two representations that could be considered blown up representations of previous groups. Abstract figures disciplined by lines and geometry are projected on a grid background. Colours are blue, brown, ochre and wine red on black background.

Ending the works in a cyclical way is the captive bird in a grid — the theme of the last three paintings. The only addition to the first, similar group is colour which gives dramatism to the whole and sharpens the feeling of pain.

Mr. Nawar's works, on display until April 15, are an impressive exercise in creating shape, combining colour and rendering the sublime pain of creation.



Two of Ahmad Nawar's works on display at Balka's Art Gallery

A twenty-minute check-up at the age of four can identify difficulties and save children years of classroom misery

New test to spot dyslexics early

By Karen Gold

Psychologists have developed a simple test to identify dyslexia that could transform the lives of tens of thousands of children.

One in 20 children suffers from dyslexia. The majority are not diagnosed until long after they have tried to read and write — and failed. Many suffer years of difficulty at school, branded as slow learners or even handicapped. Correcting the problem and recovering ground lost in the classroom can take years.

Now researchers from Sheffield University have created a simple test that can be administered to four or five-year-olds before they have started school, because it involves no reading or writing. It can be administered in 20 minutes by a teacher or school nurse, using nothing more complex than pieces of paper, a blindfold and a school computer. Identifying dyslexia at this early age allows it to be corrected to months in all but a handful of cases. Trial versions of the new method could be available for schools in September.

The test builds on recent research showing that most dyslexic children have problems with balance, memory and distinguishing different sounds, as well as with literacy. One section, for example, involves getting the child to stand for 30 seconds with one foot directly in front of the other. The dyslexic five-year-old will wobble far more often every second if blindfolded as well — than a child who is not dyslexic.

Other items in the test are likely to include asking the child to repeat a nonsense word like 'trigglejang', match a series of pictures, react to a sound by pressing a computer key (dyslexic children have slower than average reactions), and say whether two words rhyme or not.

Children with one dyslexic parent are 17 times more likely to be dyslexic researchers followed 120 randomly-chosen four-year-olds, along with 40 others from families with a history of dyslexia, using a battery of 15 diagnostic tests every year.

mediately made available to the tester. Most dyslexic children would be identified by this method, according to Sheffield psychology lecturer Dr. Rod Nicolson, one of the test's three authors. He agrees that some children who are not dyslexic but are late developers or clumsy would also be picked up.

At this early age, most dyslexic children need only half-an-hour a day of extra help with letters and sounds and writing to normal standards. "The evidence suggests that, the sooner you catch dyslexia, the quicker you can fix the problem. If you are branded as having failed to learn to read, it screws you up. It costs the nation a lot more money to put that right, and put children into remedial education later on, than it costs to pick out too many at the beginning," says Dr. Nicolson.

Until now, Britain's 2 million dyslexics have been diagnosed only once they have reached seven or eight and still failed to learn to read. They then have to be referred to psychologists for complex IQ tests to prove that their failure is not just because they are of low intelligence. By the time they get help, they can be nearing secondary school age, hopelessly behind and needing years of extra lessons and even residential special schooling.

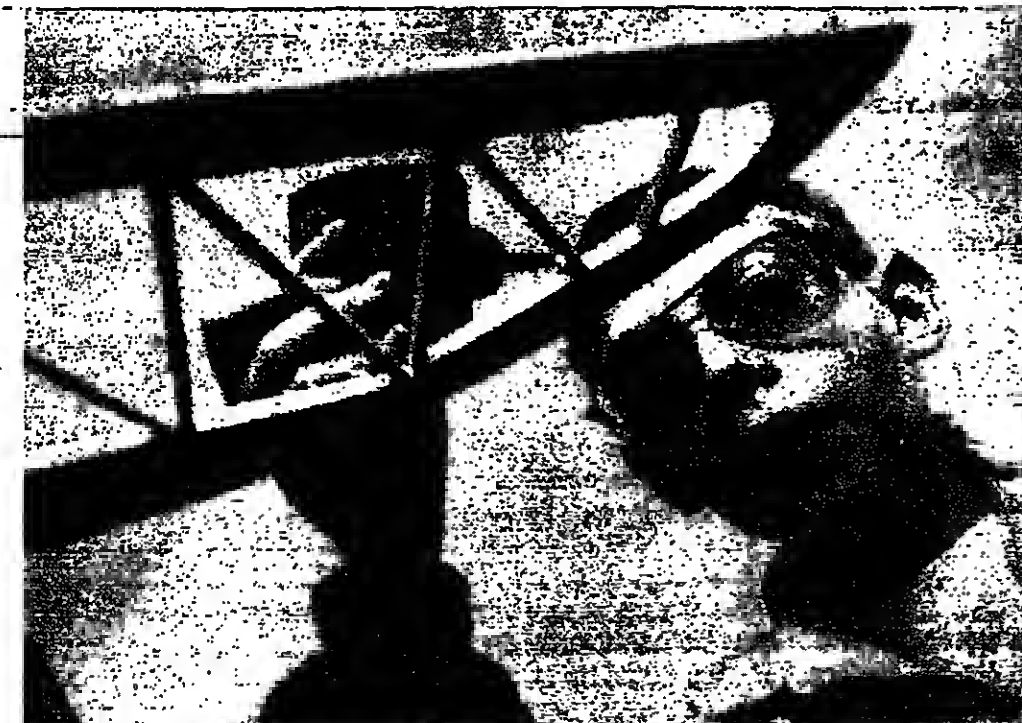
Dr. Nicolson acknowledges that some children will still need specialist help. He sees the test as a first stage, with IQ tests and psychologists' assessments needed for children who still struggle at seven.

But he is sure that the next stage is to get it into use: "If we pick these children out early, we can bring them up to speed. The problem with dyslexia is it's no use saying 'don't worry, they'll get better' — because dyslexia doesn't get better, it gets worse" — The Observer.

EDWARD BELL used to come home crying from his Sheffield school, where classmates taunted him because he could neither read nor write, writes Karen Gold.

"He couldn't work out where to start writing the letters," says his mother, Diane. "He never sang nursery rhymes, he couldn't grasp left and right. The teachers kept saying perhaps we were expecting too much of him."

Other children just called him stupid. Edward was desperate to move schools, so his parents sent him to a different one. They also asked for a psychologist to assess him, but the school said that at six he was too young. By seven, he was reading like a five-year-old and writing nothing at all. Finally, Diane took him for



Edward Bell, aged 10, whose undetected dyslexia led to teasing by other children (File photo)

tests at the national Dyslexia Institute in Sheffield. Their report said Edward's IQ was 130 — in the top 3 per cent — and that he was not only dyslexic, but deeply troubled by accusations that he was stupid or lazy. Diane wept. Edward

danced around the house saying: "I'm not stupid, I'm not stupid, I'm dyslexic!" It took three years of extra lessons, more teasing, and another school move before Edward, now 10, reached his present stage of fluent reading, reasonable

though laborious writing and much improved morale. "Now he treats his dyslexia in a matter-of-fact way," says Diane. "If he could have done that at five, it could have saved him going through so much."

Ship denied Aqaba entry

(Continued from page 1)

away again as happened on Monday. The Skyman was the seventh ship to be intercepted and subjected to costly delays this year compared with 20 vessels during last year.

U.S. Navy spokesman deny that there is an escalation of interceptions and tightening of inspection procedures despite the high number of ships delayed or forced to offload cargo elsewhere.

Jordan has lodged numerous protests to the U.N. Security Council, which imposed and authorised the enforcement of

the sanctions, and the U.S., which is leading the monitoring of the sanctions. The protests highlighted that the actual victim of the overzealous enforcement of the sanctions was Jordan and that the volume of Iraq-bound cargo passing through Aqaba had declined to less than 20 per cent of the pre-Gulf crisis level.

Shipping agents say that Iraq-bound goods passing through Turkey and Iran are six times that coming to Aqaba and point out that Turkish-bound and Iran-bound vessels are not subject to any inspections.

PLO awaits Israeli reply

(Continued from page 1)

"Almost everything is finished," said a senior army official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"If the government says it (the pullout) will take one week, it will take one week. If it says it should take one day, it will take one day," he told the Associated Press.

PLO spokesman Radwan Abu Ayash said there was a good chance of reaching agreement on the Hebron arrangements Tuesday.

A committee formed in Hebron after the Feb. 25 massacre cabled Palestine leader Yasser Arafat to demand that the PLO refrain from signing any accord with Israel until Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin agreed to remove some 450 Jewish settlers from the city.

The cable, signed by the emergency committee of Hebron, also demanded "effective international protection to replace the occupation forces in accordance with international law."

Senators' wives add human touch to official visit

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Upon the invitation of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, and headed by former U.S. representative to the U.N. Esther Coopersmith, a delegation of U.S. senators' wives have recently visited Jordan for one week. The delegation included Colleen Nunn, wife of Senator Sam Nunn, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee; Mary Johnston, wife of Senator Bennett Johnston, chairman of the Senate Energy Committee; Annie Glenn, wife of Senator John Glenn, Senate Armed Services Committee; Nancy Murkowski, wife of Senator Frank Murkowski, Senate Energy Committee; Sally Gorton, wife of Senator Slade Gorton, Senate Appropriations Committee, as well as journalist Christina Ginsburg.

The delegation showed great interest in the role of Jordanian women in the development of our society and during their visit interacted with women from Eidoun, in the north, to Deeseh, in the south. They examined items produced by rural women ranging from dairy products to rugs and ceramics and were very impressed with the quality of the goods they saw.

A major part of their visit focused on the development programmes implemented by Queen Alia Fund for Social Development, which is chaired by Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, in needy urban and rural areas.

"The Queen Alia Fund concentrates on women. They need the most help and can do the most good," said Mrs. Coopersmith, who had visited Jordan before. "I have seen so much improvement in the quality of the goods produced. Princess Basma deserves a medal. The world should look at what she is doing quietly," she said.

During their visit, the delegation also met with a number of children in kindergarten classes and children's clubs as well as less fortunate, disabled children.

The delegation expressed their admiration for social development in Jordan as a whole and especially the role of Princess Basma and QAF in bringing about social change.

"What could be a higher calling than working for the economic and social welfare of women and children and working to alleviate poverty?" asked Mrs. Nunn. "I applaud Princess Basma and the Queen Alia Fund for dramatically improving at the 'grass roots' level the education, health care and social welfare of the needy," she said.

The genuine interest and concern of the members of the delegation towards the Jordanian people was reflected in every step they took on their



The delegation of U.S. senators' wives joins a kindergarten class singing at the Eldoun centre



Esther Coopersmith (left) and Colleen Nunn admire the workmanship on a ceramic jar produced by the QAF ceramics project



Mary Johnston addresses a meeting of women leaders in the Irbid Governorate

trip. At the end of the visit each one expressed her admiration for the hospitality and friendliness of the Jordanian people as well as the unspoiled beauty of the Jordanian environment.

"Everywhere we went, we were met only with smiles. Despite the hardships people in some areas are experiencing, they are continuously optimistic and cheerful," said Mrs. Gorton.

Return to talks hinges on end to siege

(Continued from page 1)

Political Advisor Marwan Al Qasbi.

The interceptions are part of a U.S.-led effort to enforce the international sanctions that were imposed on Iraq after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Jordan, which has suffered large losses because of the sanctions against Iraq, has repeatedly complained of the problems the enforcement of the sanctions poses and suggested that sea searches be replaced by less disruptive land inspection at the port of Aqaba.

Washington said it was studying the proposal, which involves a neutral international body such as Lloyds Register inspecting the cargo.

Since early this year, the interceptions of ships headed for Aqaba have gone up, causing costly delays to Jordanian importers.

But the U.S. Navy denied the allegation. "There has been no change in guidelines and no change in our procedures," Lieutenant Commander Bruce Cole, spokesman for U.S. Naval Forces Central Command headquarters in the Gulf, was quoted as saying by the Associated Press.

But official figures show seven ships have been turned back or delayed for periods of up to four days this year, compared to 20 in all of 1993.

Three vessels in March were given extra searches before docking, including demands to see every package, complaints of unclear manifests and even a protest of 'stinging bees in the hatches of ships' shipping agents quoted by Reuters said.

The Lower House of Parliament last week urged the government not to return to the U.S.-backed Arab-Israeli peace talks before the siege of Aqaba is lifted.

Jordan Times
Tel: 667171



Austrian Airlines holds dinner in Irbid

AUSTRIAN AIRLINES, in cooperation with its general sales agent, Petra Travel & Tourism, held a dinner party for Irbid and Zarqa travel agents at Hijazi Hotel in Irbid. Sami Abu Alsoud, sales manager of Jordan, appreciated in his speech the extreme cooperation of the travel agents with Austrian Airlines. Mr. Alsoud said that the friendly Austrian Airlines, which is well known for its punctuality, is always at the service of its passengers and travel agents.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

SMS has vacancies for the following:

- Chemical Engineers.
- Chemists.
- Industrial Engineers.
- Spectroscopy Engineers.

Qualifications:

- 1- B.Sc. or a higher degree.
- 2- Excellent command of the English language.
- 3- Good PC knowledge.
- 4- Sales and communication skills are a plus.

Top salaries paid for top qualifications.

Please send your CV to the Marketing Director, P.O.Box 1387, 11118 Amman, Jordan, or present it at SMS - opposite Greater Amman Municipality.

SCIENTIFIC & MEDICAL SUPPLIES CO. SMS

Oil prices pounded as OPEC keeps output level unchanged

LONDON (Agencies) — World oil prices took a pounding Monday after OPEC oil ministers let their current output ceiling run on until year's end.

Brent Crude oil traded on the London future market fell 91 cents to \$13.20 a barrel, close to five year lows hit in February.

International benchmark Brent Crude has lost nearly \$5 over the year, and in real (inflation adjusted) terms oil prices are little better than they were in the heyday of cheap oil before the 1973 Middle East war.

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) meeting in Geneva ended in acrimony after Saudi Arabia, the group's highest producer, held firm against demands for an output cut to improve prices.

After two days of talks OPEC decided to cling on to its 24.52 million barrels per day (bbl) ceiling.

The Saudis were adamant that their own jealously guarded 8.0 million bbl quota was inviolable, seeing the potential loss of customers a greater evil than lost revenue.

The kingdom recently cut spending by 20 per cent.

Iran, OPEC's second largest producer, has lost \$3.5 billion in revenue over the last year, and had asked for a one million bbl cut in the ceiling.

Iranian Oil Minister Chaharmahal Azadegan called the agreement "unfortunate" and something that "we were to accept."

"A rollover is certainly not the best action we could have taken," a senior OPEC delegate said. "It was damage control."

"It was a cop-out," commented Irene Himona, oil analyst with stockbrokers Strauss Turnbull in London.

"It's simply confirmed our view that we're more or less permanently moved down to a lower (oil) price range," she added. "No one in OPEC is prepared to act as a swing producer and support prices."

Most traders had anticipated a rollover and price drop, and said prices were unlikely to go into free-fall.

"It's hardly a surprise," said Peter Ginoux, head of the London oil trading desk at Smith Barney Shearson.

"I'd be surprised to see a drop of a dollar a barrel over the week," Mr. Ginoux said.

But not were prices likely to improve in the short-term as world demand declines in the spring and summer, analysts said.

"With oil prices weak inflationary pressures will remain subdued," said Gerard Lyons, head economist at DKB Bank in London.

Although petrol prices are several steps removed from that of OPEC's crude, consumers are also benefiting. Motorists in the United States are enjoying gasoline prices which in real terms are probably the lowest since the World War II.

OPEC's best hope is that reviving autumn demand will rescue prices.

The International Energy

Agency, the West's oil watchdog, sees world demand for OPEC's oil running at 23.3 million bbl in the second quarter, but rising to 25.8 million bbl in the fourth.

"Initially the market may go down because there were some expectations last week of an (OPEC) cut but prices should recover in the third and fourth quarters," Kleinworth Benson Securities oil analyst Mehdi Varzi said.

Strauss Turnbull's Himona was less optimistic.

"History has shown us the supply side must be the most important factor," she said. "Whatever is demanded will be supplied."

Meanwhile a state-run Iranian daily said Monday that Saudi Arabia had opposed an OPEC production cut because the United States wanted cheap crude oil.

The English-language Tehran Times said, "by keeping crude prices low the Saudi rulers are in effect giving higher priority to the interest of the United States, which wants cheap crude, than to their own economic wellbeing and political independence."

The daily accused the kingdom of "creating financial inconveniences" for its neighbours.

"It is hard to understand the kingdom's policy, which costs its nation huge sums in order to save American businesses but at the same time endangers and actually damages the economies of its own neighbours by reducing their oil revenues," said the Times editor.

Iran and Saudi Arabia have traditionally been at odds in OPEC. The Iranians, whose oil industries are working at capacity, have favoured production cuts to raise prices, whereas the Saudis have preferred to increase supply to generate revenues.

Iran, with a 2.6 million barrels a day quota, is the no. 2 producer inside OPEC. It has said it lost \$3.5 billion in revenues over the past 12 months due to the weak market.

Officials at the OPEC meeting told reporters that most of the dozen ministers had wanted to slash production by a million or so barrels a day in the April-June quarter to bolster the market.

Iran and Saudi Arabia have traditionally been at odds in OPEC. The Iranians, whose oil industries are working at capacity, have favoured production cuts to raise prices, whereas the Saudis have preferred to increase supply to generate revenues.

Paris Club agrees to cut Cameroon's debt half

PARIS (R) — The Paris Club of official creditors has agreed to cut Cameroon's debt in half, giving it the same favourable terms of debt relief as announced last week for the Ivory Coast, the economy ministry said Monday.

It said in a statement that the debt restructuring, agreed at a meeting at the end of last week, followed an agreement between Cameroon and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on economic reform.

The French economy ministry, which acts as secretary to the Paris Club, said the club had agreed to offer so-called Trinidad terms, the best possible terms of debt relief.

These had already been granted to Senegal, Niger and Ivory Coast, Cameroon's partners in the franc zone, whose common currency, the CFA franc, was devalued by 50 per cent in January.

However, like Ivory Coast, Cameroon is ranked as a lower middle-income country and therefore might not automatically have qualified for Trinidad terms, which are usually offered to the poorest nations.

France, the former colonial power, promised at the time of the CFA franc devaluation to press for the best possible terms of debt relief for franc zone countries, particularly the middle-income countries which it listed as Ivory Coast, Cameroon, Congo and Gabon.

The economy ministry statement said Paris Club creditors, who met on March 24 and 25, had taken account of the very low per capita income in Cameroon and the weight of its debt burden.

They had therefore agreed a restructuring which will cut the net present value of the debt by 50 per cent.

Creditor nations also agreed to meet in three years' time to discuss Cameroon's stock of debt.

Cameroon had total external debt of \$6.26 billion, including \$3.96 billion owed to official creditors in 1991, according to the latest available figures from the World Bank.

Battered Cuban economy may be on road to recovery

HAVANA (R) — Cuba's battered economy may start back on the road to recovery this year after hitting rock bottom in 1993, Cuban government officials say.

But they admit that the communist-ruled Caribbean island, whose people are suffering shortages of just about everything, still faces huge difficulties as it proceeds with a cautious programme of economic reform.

President Fidel Castro says the changes are aimed at saving the gains of socialism, not dismantling the system or setting the economy on the road to capitalism.

Foreign diplomats in Havana note, however, that this slows the pace of change as officials search for ways of freeing some areas of the economy while preventing reform from spinning out of control.

"They're very inclined to open up but they want to avoid chaos, so the opening up is going slower than the Western world would like," commented one foreign businessman.

In the latest statement of cautious optimism for 1994, Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina said last week that his country's oil-importing, sugar-exporting economy — battered by the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of traditional aid and trade ties — had survived its worst moment.

"The crisis has hit its bottom and we are entering a phase of recovery during which we see light at the end of the tunnel," he told the Cuban news agency Prensa Latina.

Domestic production in industry and agriculture dived in the past four years and imports last year of \$1.7 billion were less than a quarter what they were in the late 1980s.

This year officials hope the economic reforms will start boosting productivity, that foreign investment will continue to grow and that Cuba

will post slightly improved figures for some of its hard currency earners such as sugar, nickel and tourism.

No official forecasts have been issued for export earnings by Cuba, but several independent economists and diplomats have estimated exports could rise to between \$2.2 billion and \$2.4 billion this year, back to about the level of 1992.

State-run firms, of which a startling 69 per cent lost money last year, are being given more autonomy and told to improve their finances in an attempt to curb the drain on the state budget.

The island also bopes for continued interest by foreign investors. Cuba's drive for foreign capital has produced some 129 joint ventures so far, in areas such as tourism, nickel mining, oil exploration and cement production.

In terms of the difficult daily lives of Cubans, however, much still hangs on a planned fresh round of reforms aimed at cleaning up the country's chaotic internal finances and restoring some value to the beleaguered currency, the peso.

Vietnam launches restructuring of state-run industries

HO CHI MINH CITY, Vietnam (AP) — Vietnam is undertaking a gradual but fundamental restructuring of state-owned enterprises and the bureaucracy that controls them, seeking to complete its transition to a market economy.

Thousands of small, financially troubled state-owned companies are being combined into larger industrial groups. At the same time, the government is trimming and shifting its oversight.

Government ministries will no longer be directly involved in business planning, says Tran Quan Ngoc, a top official at the State Committee for Cooperation and Investment, that will be left to company managers.

Consolidations, privatisations and failures have slashed the number of state-owned enterprises to about 4,000 from 15,000 at the start of the year and 15,000 several years ago, said Nguyen Ngoc Phuc, the committee's vice-director of project evaluation. The government's full withdrawal from active management of companies is expected to take another two years.

There are good reasons for a gradual transition. The experiences of Russia and other formerly communist countries show that a sudden switch from an economy controlled by government planners to one guided by market forces can lead to soaring unemployment and plunging industrial production. Just two years ago, the state-owned sector produced 60 per cent of Vietnam's national income.

Vietnam appears poised to become yet another Asian success story. Annual economic growth of has averaged seven per cent in the past three years, while inflation has been tamed to single digits. The government is aiming for growth of eight per cent to nine per cent this year and in 1995.

The stage for the country's economic takeoff was set during the late-1980s, when the government launched its policy of "doi moi," or renovation, reforms that moved Vietnam away from a Soviet-style planned economy and staved off economic collapse. Unprofitable firms were closed, companies were privatised and foreign investors were welcomed.

The catalyst for the latest push to restructure the economy has been the national assembly's passage of bankruptcy and commercial codes in December.

The bankruptcy law, which takes effect on July 1, isn't expected to force closures of the many firms that are technically insolvent or throw workers into the street. It provides for a six-month grace

Kuwait tries to bury financial scandal

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait this week tries to bury a financial scandal that has haunted the economy for 12 years, slowed post-Gulf war recovery and hit confidence in its banks.

The 5.7 billion dinar (\$19 billion) debt problem, unwanted progeny of a free-wheeling stock market that crashed, confounded repeated attempts in the 1980s to commit it to the grave.

But by close of business Thursday bankers hope to have won promises of repayment from the 9,546 debtors who owe the equivalent of 90 per cent of Kuwait's gross domestic product.

"It will be a great achievement," said one banker, saying it was the best chance yet to end the embarrassing episode.

But he added: "Of course, abiding by the law is one thing, fulfilling what the law requires of you is another."

Sons of wealthy merchant families have been among debtors who have bowed to the threat of possible bankruptcy and trooped to commercial bank offices to register for repayment.

A law that took effect on Sept. 6 aimed at settling the debt problem once and for all says failure to register means a debtor's entire obligation falls due and he may be declared bankrupt by the courts.

Attempts at evasion are punishable by up to five years in jail.

Bankers say signs are promising that most if not all of the corporate and individual debtors will have indicated by the deadline which repayment method — cash, rescheduling

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY MARCH 29, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll-Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Five distinctively positive good aspects make this day one of the best this month unless you get into making any dramatic or drastic changes in your programme for this week. Maintain your cool.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Make arrangements now for recreations you want to enjoy in the future. Show your finest talents to others and gain their support.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Do what you can at home so that you have more harmony there. Sidestep a foe who has done you much harm in the past and will continue if not prevented.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Add to your success by dealing cleverly with others and put your ideas to work intelligently. Be careful of your reputation in any situation.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You must use fact and diplomacy at this time if you wish to gain your aims. Take exercise to improve your health and vitality.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Know what it is you really want and then go after it in a positive way. Strive to have more harmony with family members and the one you love.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Take time to concentrate on just where you are going and how best to gain your true aims. Gain more support from a loved one in any endeavour.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Contacting influential persons and showing your admiration for them brings fine results today. Improve your appearance to those you come in contact.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Study new outlets that could bring added success to the future. Become more involved in community affairs and gain the prestige of others.

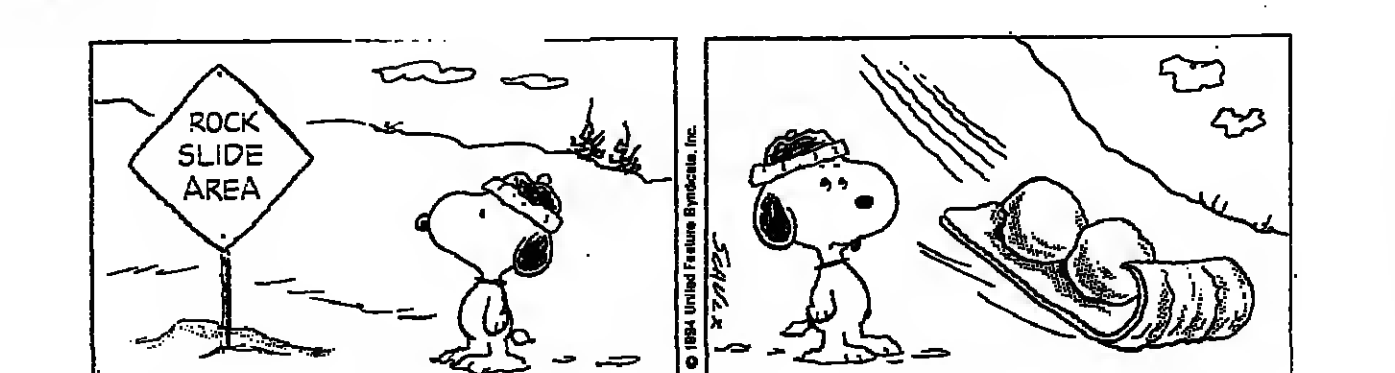
SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You have a true understanding of a new interest and can now gain your aims. Think along constructive lines in any project involved with.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Get busy at regular routines and plan how they can be made easier and more profitable in the future. Be logical in any of your projects.

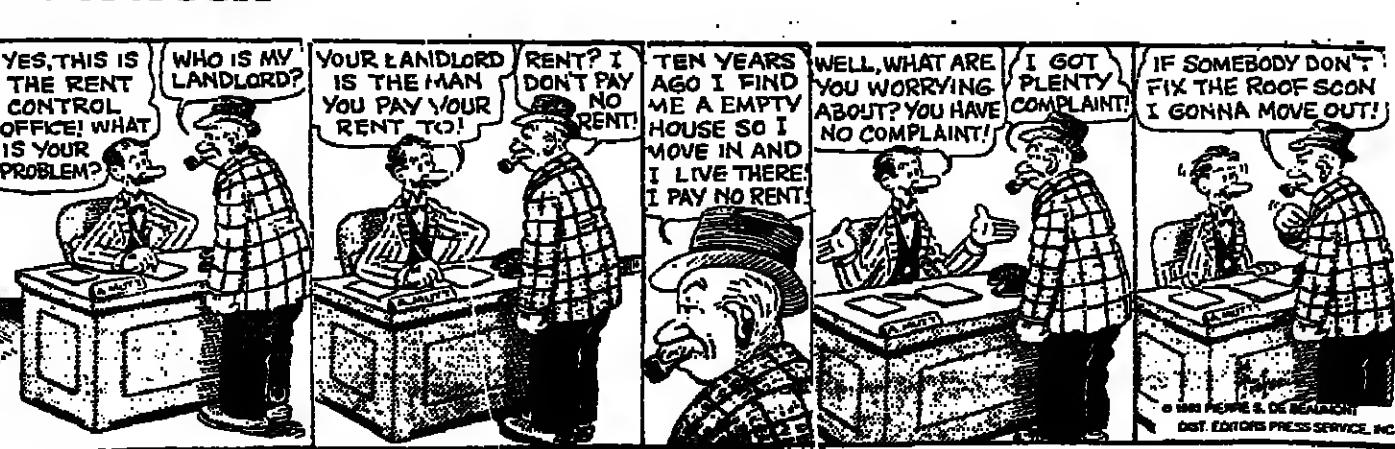
AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Contact an ally who is progressive and come to a fine meeting of minds. Find a better way to gain your most cherished aims you desire.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You are able to make improvements to your environment at this time. Cooperate with fellow associates and get much accomplished in what you are doing.

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

VINGE
LARRU
UNEEVA
RAPPOL

Print answer here: ON "THE" (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: MOTIF FEIGN FAULTY SYSTEM
Answer: When he lit up in a No Smoking area he left others — FUMING

THE Daily Crossword

by Harold B. Counts

ACROSS
1 Sets along
8 Clearing
10 Slightly open
14 Actress Pappas
15 Jamming of old times
16 Recognized leader
17 Growl
18 Biblical prophet
20 Tiny person
23 Time zone
24 False god
25 Weakness
27 Ear part
30 — cuppe
32 Ob
33 Salvo
34 Salamanders
36 Desiderata
39 Viral disease
40 Tied
42 — what
43 Upright
45 — avia
46 Tardigrade
47 Average grades
48 Equip
50 Cessus
51 Cowering vessel
52 Outline
53 Something that enhances
57 Outdated
62 Time periods
64 Ovarian
65 "Therapy" language
66 Span
67 Bring up
68 Annual with a rugged tail
69 Garden tool
70 Planes
71 Borders

DOWN
1 Angle
2 Cartoonist Peter
3 Gather crops
4 Clothes, in a way
5 Alabama town
6 Be content with
7 Eastern nurse
8 Israeli party
9 Certain resin
10 Ottoman Empire
11 Start too soon
12 May the day
13 Corrodes
21 Official residence in the Chinese Empire
22 Far from spicy
26 Spend
27 Departed
28 Lasher's look
29 Echo
31 Flower extract
35 Endocasts
37 Legal paper
38 Collections
40 Prussian
41 Bald bird
42 Make clothes
43 Meant
44 Old World talons
51 Curse
52 — lima
53 Chicago suburb
55 Short maxim
56 Certain exam
58 Nautical rope
60 General Robert
61 Soak's fax
63 Female

ASIAN FINANCIAL MARKET
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - JORDAN
TELEPHONE: 660170 / 652170
ORGANIZED MARKET PRICE LIST FOR MARCH 28/03/1994

COUNTRY'S NAME	TRADED VOLUME	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OFFERING PRICE	LASTING PRICE
ASIAN NATIONAL BANK	41,895	191,000	190,000	190,000
CHARTERED BANK	26,667	7,500	7,500	7,500
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	55,000	55,000	55,000	55,000
JORDANIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK	26,003	4,500	4,500	4,500
THE HOUSING BANK	22,761	2,380	2,380	2,370
JORDANIAN BANK	41,438	3,290	3,290	3,290
JORDANIAN INVESTMENT BANK	18,267	5,920	6,250	5,900
JORDANIAN ISLAMIC BANK	89,829	2,200	2,200	2,170
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	41,438	4,730	4,730	4,750
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	7,085	4,400	4,400	4,500
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	107,311	4,400	4,400	4,420
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	4,000	5,100	5,100	5,120
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	13,440	4,500	4,500	4,500
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	10,150	8,800	8,800	8,800
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	2,238	4,700	4,700	4,650
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	110,454	2,030	2,030	2,030
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	125,897	2,470	2,470	2,470
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	13,350	4,450	4,450	4,450
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	1,444	3,500	3,500	3,260
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	5,480	3,500	3,500	3,500
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	268	2,350	2,350	2,350
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	10,389	3,500	3,500	3,500
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	4,000	1,280	1,280	1,280
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	2,426	4,800	4,800	4,800
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	12,165	2,580	2,580	2,580
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	32,035	4,400	4,400	4,430
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	46	0.910	0.910	0.910
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	4,360	1,140	1,140	1,140
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	21,201	3,200	3,200	3,200
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	11,658	3,990	2,990	2,960
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	29,722	1,800	1,700	1,680
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	13,262	10,280	10,250	10,180
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	10,170	8,800	8,800	8,800
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	3,718	6,900	6,900	6,850
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	10,170	8,800	8,800	8,800
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	33,182	7,940	7,940	7,940
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	24,550	6,500	6,500	6,500
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	12,787	4,300	4,300	4,300
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	2,365	3,760	2,730	2,730
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	2,365	3,760	2,730	2,730
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	9,722	0.390	0.390	0.390
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	24,790	17,800	17,800	17,800
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	130,346	9,900	9,900	9,900
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	2,545	2,540	2,540	2,520
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	10,351	0.580	0.580	0.402
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	2,257	7,650	7,650	7,750
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	7,043	2,200	2,190	2,200
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	10,688	4,800	7,700	7,700
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	3,809	0.370	0.370	0.390
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	3,205	0.380	0.380	0.380
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	7,012	1,080	1,070	1,100
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	7,680	2,410	2,400	2,400
GRAND TOTAL	1,834,939			

NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET: 93875
TRADED VOLUME IN THE PARALLEL MARKET: 1.20 157240

Bahrain bank makes shares available to foreigners

MANAMA (R) — Investcorp S.A., an international investment bank, Sunday allowed investors from outside Gulf Arab states to deal in its shares on the Bahrain Stock Exchange (BSE), a bank official said.

"The bank made its shares available to foreigners on the exchange from today," the official said.

Investcorp had received permission from Bahraini authorities to allow investors outside Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states to deal in its shares without any restriction or limitation.

Bahrain, the main financial centre in the Gulf, said earlier this month it would allow investors from outside the GCC to own shares of firms listed on the growing BSE.

Citizens of the GCC, grouping Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, are already allowed to own shares in listed Bahraini firms.

Investcorp Tuesday also switched the pricing of its shares to U.S. dollars instead of the Bahraini dinar. The shares were priced at \$1.05 on the BSE Tuesday.

Bahrain-based Investcorp became the third bank to allow foreigners to trade in its shares. The other two Bahrain-based banks are Arab Banking Corporation and Bahrain International Bank.

Jordan Press Foundation hikes pre-tax profit by 84 per cent

By Samir Shafiq
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordan Press Foundation (JPF), which publishes Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times, has increased its earnings in 1993 by 84 per cent and, by limiting the rise in expenditure to only 18 per cent, has managed to post JD 2.8 million in net pre-tax profit last year.

The large net pre-tax profit, which was an 84 per cent increase over the previous JD 1.5 million record posted at the end of 1992, prompted the general assembly of the company to approve Sunday a board recommendation to distribute dividends to shareholders at a rate of 50 per cent per share.

As such, and according to JPF's 8th annual report, dividends amounted to JD 1 million compared to JD 250,000 of dividends distributed at a 25 per cent rate in 1992 when the capital of the company was only JD 1 million.

JPF increased its capital in 1993 to JD 2 million boosting shareholders' equity from JD 2.9 million at the end of 1992 to JD 8.5 million at the end of last year.

According to JPF's 1993 financial statement, JD 6.5 million of last year's equity represents various reserves.

Other figures show total assets standing at JD 14.8 million, with JD 5.3 million in fixed assets.

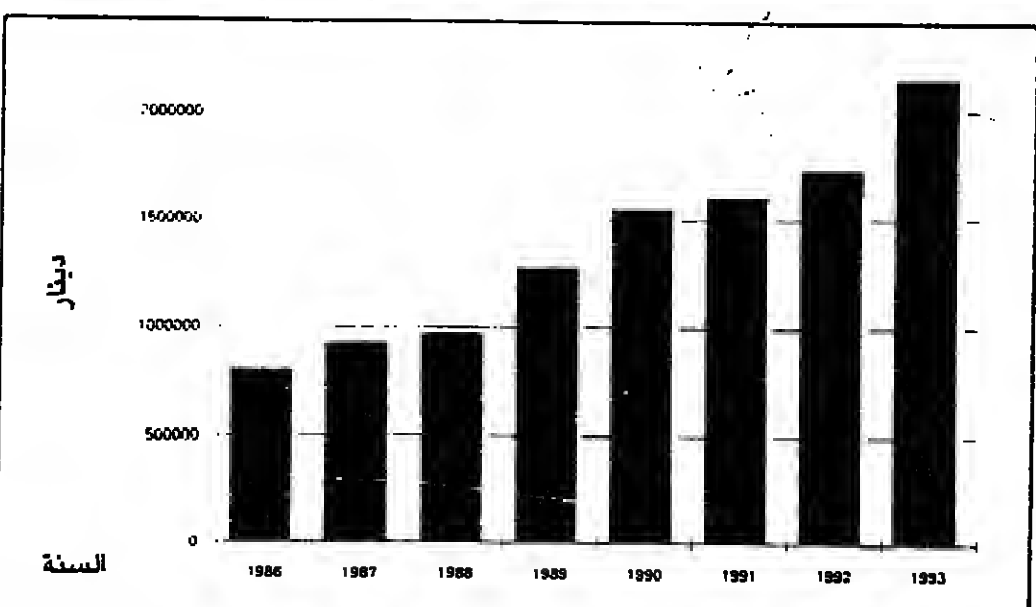
Fixed assets at the end of 1992 totalled JD 1.6 million and the increase was mainly due to new addition to the printing equipment and to a building under construction.

Current assets increased to JD 9.5 million, a 270 per cent boost over the 1992 figure, mainly because of the high cash liquidity resulting from subscription to the increased capital and higher earnings from sales and income from advertisements.

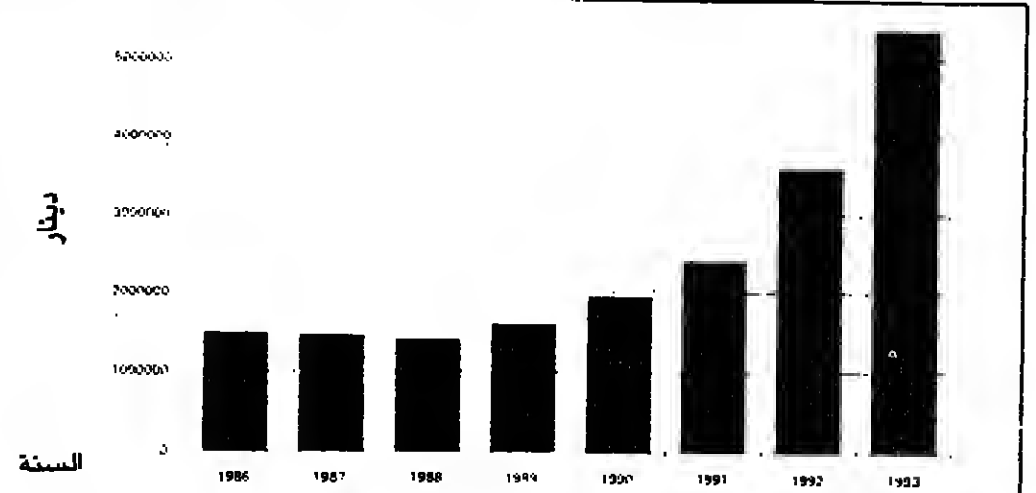
Advertisements constituted 63 per cent of the JD 8.5 million total earnings of JPF in 1993. Sales accounted for 25 per cent and the commercial printing section acquired the remaining 12 per cent.

The Jordan Times alone earned JD 156,436 from ads and JD 129,803 from sales last year.

Expenditures, on the other hand, amounted to JD 5.9 million of which 58 per cent were



Graphs showing income growth from sales (above) and from advertisements (below)



costs of paper and other printing materials. Salaries and increments accounted for 29 per cent of the expenses with the remaining 13 per cent being general and administrative expenses and depreciation.

The annual report highlighted that in 1994 a wide ranging modernisation process will be undertaken through operating new equipment that had been imported to upgrade the production of the newspaper and other prints.

Financial Markets

Jordan Times
in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Mar 25/3/94	Tokyo Close Mar 28/3/94
Sterling Pound	1.4988	1.4981
Deutsche Mark	1.6655	1.6662
Swiss Franc	1.4168	1.4202
French Franc	5.7050	5.7020**
Japanese Yen	104.85	104.74
European Currency Unit	1.1543	1.1543**

* 1SD Per STD
** European Opening in 8.00 a.m. GMT

Eurocurrency Interest Rates Date: 28/3/1994

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.3750	5.6250	5.9375	4.4375
Sterling Pound	5.0000	5.0625	5.0625	5.2500
Deutsche Mark	5.5625	5.5000	5.3750	5.7500
Swiss Franc	4.0000	3.8750	3.8125	3.7500
French Franc	6.7875	6.1250	6.0625	5.9062
Japanese Yen	2.0000	2.1250	2.0625	2.2500
European Currency Unit	6.3100	6.2500	6.1200	6.0000

Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding 1 U.S. Dollar 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals Date: 28/3/1994

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	392.25	7.70	Silver	5.85	0.130

* 21 karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 28/3/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6990	0.7010
Sterling Pound	1.0460	1.0512
Deutsche Mark	0.4189	0.4210
Swiss Franc	0.4912	0.4937
French Franc	0.1223	0.1229
Japanese Yen	0.6667	0.6700
Dutch Guilder	0.3724	0.3743
Swedish Krona	*****	*****
Italian Lira	0.0423	0.0425
Belgian Franc	*****	*****

Other Currencies Date: 28/3/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8350	1.8500
Lebanese Lira	0.040440	0.041680
Saudi Riyal	0.1861	0.1872
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3270	2.3600
Qatari Riyal	0.1898	0.1910
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7830	1.8100
UAE Dirham	0.1898	0.1910
Greek Drachma	0.2635	0.3275
Cypriot Pound	1.3330	1.4020

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Monday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.3729/39	Canadian dollar
	1.6713/23	Deutschemarks
	1.8800/10	Dutch guilders
	1.4230/40	Swiss francs
	34.45/49	Belgian francs
	5.7210/60	French francs
	1636.1/7.6	Italian lire
	104.80/90	Japanese yen
	7.8800/00	Swedish crowns
	7.2760/10	Norwegian crowns
	6.5820/70	Danish crowns
One sterling	\$1.4963/73	
One ounce of gold	\$389.30/389.70	

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

THE PROFESSIONALS ALWAYS CHOOSE THE RELIABLE

PACKING, AIR FREIGHT, FORWARDING, DOOR-TO-DOOR SERVICES AND DELIVERIES, CUSTOMS CLEARANCE, TICKETS AND RESERVATIONS.

AMIN KAWAR & SONS
TEL: 604675 604696
P.O. BOX 7806 AMMAN

FOR RENT & SALE

Many villas and apartments furnished or unfurnished.

For more details call:
Abdoun Real Estate
Tel: 810605/810609/810520
Fax: 810520

THE Far East RESTAURANT

Real Chinese Cuisine and Great Far Eastern Atmosphere.

Open for Lunch & Dinner 6 days a week

KAMIKAZE SPORTS PUB
Sports & programmes
Live Via Satellite
7 days a week
4p.m. till 12 p.m.
and the kamikazis are always 1 J.D. Each

قصور الشامي - جويل عمان - صافير
الرياضة والفنون
2nd Circle - Jabal Amman
vips, French food
Tel: 653482 هاتف

Security, Hospitality & Gastronomy

Sweflyeh. 816690

Turino
Flat O.Tel
Serviced Suites in Grand Hotel Style I

DANZAS

INTERNATIONAL DOOR TO DOOR REMOVALS
GERMAN DRIVERS - AIR - RIDDEN REMOVAL TRUCKS
YOUR REGULAR LINK TO AND FROM EUROPE
SPECIALISTS FOR DIPLOMATIC REMOVALS
IN THE NEAR EAST
FOR DETAILED INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT
EASTERN SERVICES
OFFICIAL DANZAS AGENT IN JORDAN
TEL: 621 775 TLX: 23023 FAX: 656 270
PEACE BUILDING - JABAL LWEIBDEH
AMMAN - JORDAN

Elite Cafe
Hamburgers & Pizzas
ELITE CAFE

12 am - V. Late

THE ATMOSPHERE CREATORS

TALK OF THE TOWN DISCOTHEQUE

Open nightly from 9.00 P.M. to 3.00 A.M.
Except Sunday from 4.00 P.M. to 3.00 A.M.
Tuesday Closed
Tel: 685211 Fax: 617779
Middle East Hotel - Shmeisani

Ahlan... to the in place to be the ...

Rozena Inn

Tel: 63572 / 630571 Fax: 630572 Jebel Amman, 2nd Circle

RESTAURANT CHINA

The first & best Chinese Restaurant in Jordan

1st Circle, Jabal Amman, near Aliyyah Girls School
Take away is available
Open daily 12:00-3:30 p.m.
7:00 - Midnight
Tel: 638968

INTERCONTINENTAL JORDAN

THE BEST IN INDIAN CUISINE.

BURNINGA
Open for Lunch & Dinner
For reservations call 641351

Szechwan Gardens CHINESE RESTAURANT

Typical Chinese Foods
Skilled Chinese Chefs
Open 11:30 - 3:30 & 6:00 - Midnight
Take away is available
Shal Al-Arab Street
Um Uthmanah Commercial Centre
Tel: 861174
Once Tasted Always Loved

Kashmir Restaurant

FIRST CLASS INDIAN RESTAURANT
Special Executive Lunches
Take away service available
Open Daily 12.30 - 3.30 pm
7.30 - 11.30 pm
After the Philadelphia Hotel
Towards 3rd circle
Tel: 659519 659520

The First Class Hotel in Amman that has a Kitchenette in every room.
"Satellite T.V. Reception"

DAROTEL

Amman - Tel: 668193
P.O. Box 9403 - Fax 602434
Telex 23888 DAROTEL JO
Ideal Residence For Expatriates and Businessmen

CHEN'S CHINESE RESTAURANT

Mecca Street, Yarmouk Engineers' Housing Estate, near Kilo Supermarket
Mongolian Barbecue for Lunch Friday only
Tel: 818214
Come and taste our specialties
Open daily 12:00 - 3:30 p.m.
6:30 - Midnight

SELECT HOTEL

Superior Hotel Services for Businessmen & Families & its

NeGrEsCo BaR

Good Drinks & Excellent Snacks
Open Noons & Evenings

Jabal Al Webdeh/Tel. 637101/637102

S.M.T.Z. GALLERY RESTAURANT

INTERNATIONAL CUISINE

OPEN DAILY SOON TO MIDNIGHT

LUNCHES AFTERNOON TEA DRINKS AT THE BAR DINNERS

SOUK UMUT THAINA AMMAN TEL: 815987

STUDIO HAIG

Professional Quality in 1 Hour Service
Develop your colour film at our shop and get-

JUMBO photo size 30% larger
Free enlargement 20 x 30 cm

Shmeisani - Opp. Grindlays Bank. Phone: 604042
Sweflyeh tel: 823891

Parole

Daily Lunch Set Menu
NIGHTLY Fine Dining and Live Music

Parole
Shal Al-Arab Street
Um Uthmanah Commercial Center
Tel: 824677

Milano

Best Pizzas & Sandwiches

Soft & Alcoholic Drinks

Also Take-Away Service
Shmeisani
Tel: 680670

LARA SALON AND BEAUTY CENTRE

Hairstyling, hair removal with hot wax and Arabic way. Manicure, pedicure and facials.

Sweflyeh, opposite Boston Fried Chicken
Tel: 862552

TO ADVERTISE IN THIS SECTION CALL

667171/6-670141/4
Ext. 223

AVIS

We try harder.

SAS
699-420

Parole

Daily Lunch Set Menu
NIGHTLY Fine Dining and Live Music

Parole
Shal Al-Arab Street
Um Uthmanah Commercial Center
Tel: 824677

Milano

Best Pizzas & Sandwiches

Soft & Alcoholic Drinks

Also Take-Away Service
Shmeisani
Tel: 680670

Parole

Daily Lunch Set Menu
NIGHTLY Fine Dining and Live Music

Parole
Shal Al-Arab Street
Um Uthmanah Commercial Center
Tel: 824677

S. Korean defence minister sure of victory in event of war

SEOUL (Agencies) — South Korea and its U.S. allies would be certain winners in the event of war with the North, Defence Minister Rhee Byung-Tae said in an article published Monday.

Mr. Rhee, in an article for a civil servants' newspaper, said his forces were more than a match for the North's million-plus army.

"Concerning the nuclear issue, the government's persistent position is to prevent North Korea from developing nuclear weapons and to resolve this peacefully," Mr. Rhee said.

But he added: "Our armed forces' combat ability and performance of our military equipment are superior to those of the North Korean military."

Even if North Korea misjudged the situation and waged war, it would see "only miserable defeat and war victory will be on the side of combined (South) Korean-U.S. forces," he said.

Tensions grew rapidly last week on the divided Korean peninsula as the increasingly isolated and defiant North repeatedly warned of the danger of war over international efforts to make it open its suspect nuclear sites.

Visiting former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev Monday urged a cautious approach.

"It is not desirable to directly confront the North's aggression with military build-up," Mr. Gorbachev said in a question-and-answer session with South Korean lawmakers.

"If the South reacts too nervously and hurriedly, this could trigger off a dramatic action by the North," he said.

"The world should be patient and try to resolve the issue step by step."

Mr. Gorbachev, the architect of reform in the former Soviet Union, also said Stalinist North Korea would ultimately be affected by the winds of change worldwide.

"All kinds of reform that are taking place internationally will ultimately affect North Korea," Yonhap News Agency quoted him as saying during a meeting with Lee Man-Sup, speaker of Seoul's National Assembly.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said earlier this month that North Korea had prevented inspectors from completing checks of some of its nuclear sites, sparking the latest crisis.

The United States and its allies fear the Stalinist North is building a bomb, a charge it denies.

The United States broke off talks with the North. It also announced the resumption of military exercises with South Korea and is shipping a Patriot missile defence system there.

South Korea's 630,000-strong armed forces have been put on alert. Seoul says Pyongyang has also put its military on heightened alert.

U.S. Secretary of Defence William Perry said Friday the United States was working to put in place tactical aircraft that could be moved to South Korea "in a matter of a few days rather than a few weeks."

But North Korea warned Sunday that U.S. plans to install more sophisticated weapons in South Korea would only push the peninsula towards a catastrophic war.

Lawmakers from South Korea's main opposition Democratic Party said Monday they opposed plans to bring in U.S. weapons, including Patriot missiles.

"We must oppose pressure to import U.S. weapons which would bring a huge economic burden at a time when we have to increase international competitiveness," they said.

Diplomats say a U.N. Security Council resolution expected this week would confine itself to urging Pyongyang to permit unrestricted inspections instead of rattling the threat of economic sanctions.

China, one of the five permanent Council members and Pyongyang's sole major ally, opposes any moves for sanctions.

During more than two hours of talks Monday, President Jiang Zemin told visiting South Korean President Kim Young-Sam that Beijing wanted a nuclear-free Korean peninsula to maintain peace and stability there.

But China's Foreign Ministry spokesman Shen Guofang said negotiation was the only way to resolve the row.

Mr. Kim had wanted a promise from China to abstain in any Security Council vote calling for punitive steps such as sanctions, a Seoul official said before the meeting.

South Korea had plans to develop atomic bombs as late as 1991 but was forced to give up under U.S. pressure, a governing party official said Monday.

The remarks by Rep. Suh Su-Jong, chief policy analyst of the Democratic Liberal Party,

came amid a crisis over neighbouring North Korea's nuclear programme, and illustrated the longstanding potential for a nuclear arms race on the divided Korean peninsula.

"It's true that former President Roh Tae-Woo worked out plans to develop nuclear weapons in 1991 after reports of North Korea's suspected nuclear weapons development," Mr. Suh told reporters.

Mr. Roh, who was replaced by President Kim Young-Sam in early 1993, also thought South Korea needed nuclear weapons to reduce its overwhelming military dependence on the United States, Mr. Suh said.

It is known that South Korea tried to develop nuclear weapons under President Park Chung-Hee in the 1970s. Mr. Suh's remarks were the first confirmation that later governments pursued the plan.

Mr. Suh served as chief secretary to the head of the intelligence-gathering agency for national security planning during Mr. Roh's 1987-1993 administration.

He did not spell out how far advanced the plans were, but disclosed that government-hired nuclear weapons experts were forced under U.S. pressure to withdraw from Daegu science town in central South Korea.

Daegu houses major nuclear research facilities, including experimental reactors and a uranium processing plant.

South Korea operates nine nuclear power plants and is building several more. Many international experts say it has the potential to develop nuclear weapons.



An armoured South African police vehicle drives past a burning minibus allegedly hijacked and set alight by Zulu hostel dwellers in Soweto, ahead of a protest march to Johannesburg in support of their king's demand of a Zulu sovereign state (AFP photo)

8 Zulu marchers killed in S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Gunmen opened fire on Zulus marching towards the ANC Headquarters in Johannesburg, killing at least eight people, witnesses said.

About 18 people were wounded and bodies littered the pavement.

African National Congress (ANC) spokesman Carl Niehaus said ANC security guards had fired at "gunmen" to disperse them.

"Several gunmen tried to gain access to the building," he said.

The ANC security guards fired warning shots into the air before shooting to disperse the crowd, he added. Police later sealed off the building.

The incident brought pre-election violence in South Africa to the heart of its commercial capital.

Bodies were sprawled on the pavement at the corner of King George and De Villiers Streets near the ANC Headquarters at Shell House, the witnesses said. Paramedics tended the wounded.

Niehaus said shots were also fired from neighbouring buildings.

Police General Koos Calitz said: "A lot of Inkatha people were marching towards Shell House, then the very next moment shots were fired from various buildings, including the ANC Headquarters."

ANC leader Nelson Mandela, who is recovering from laryngitis, was not at the offices, the ANC said.

A police officer confirmed eight dead but was unable to say how many were wounded.

He said Zulus had apparently been heading into town to join a demonstration in the centre of Johannesburg along a route that took them past the headquarters of their ANC rivals.

About 100 ANC supporters danced at a cross roads beside Shell House. They suddenly grabbed and beat up a pedestrian apparently believing he was one of the Zulus.

An ANC member in the lobby of the ANC Headquarters said: "The marchers were at the back and coming in this direction. We don't know what was the objective of coming here."

Seconds after he spoke, a burst of gunfire erupted about a block away. Police armoured vehicles raced to the scene as crowds of onlookers scattered.

Gen. Calitz said there had been no police shooting.

The march to the offices of South Africa's Independent Electoral Commission, was called by traditional Zulu leaders to back King Goodwill Zwelithini's opposition to the April 26-28 all-race elections.

Meanwhile, gunmen ripped a baby from her mother's arms

and flung the child into a burning house in South Africa's Natal province where weekend violence killed at least 49 people, police said Monday.

Most of the victims were killed in clashes between supporters of the ANC and those of the Inkatha Freedom Party.

Police said attackers set fire to a black homestead and shot and killed at least two people before tossing the 17-month-old toddler into the flaming house at Kwa-Mbonambi on Natal's north coast Saturday.

The child's mother survived the attack, said police spokesman Hamilton Ngidi. The motive for the attack was not known, he said.

Three people were killed and 18 wounded when attackers ambushed a bus early near Tongaat north of Durban, police said.

Police spokeswoman Sheren Govenader said the attack took place at 6.50 a.m. (0450 GMT) at a bus depot near Tongaat. No further details were available.

Police said at least 49 people were killed in Natal in a weekend of clashes in black rural areas and townships.

Three people were killed when unknown attackers raided a voter education workshop at Gembosho black rural area south of the provincial capital Pietermaritzburg Sunday, police spokesman Henry Bhudram said.

U.S. artist plans knitted tea cosy for cottage

BIRMINGHAM, England (R) —

An American sculptor hopes to persuade Scottish islanders to knit a giant tea cosy to be fitted over a cottage as a work of art. Roxanne Permat, 41, head of sculpture at Birmingham's University of central England, said the cosy was expected to take 30 local people on the Shetland Island of Barra two years to knit from nearly 2,000 balls of wool.

When finished, it will be placed over a cottage, or croft, on Barra for a month and then go on tour. But some local members of parliament are unhappy. Said one: "The Arts Council... should be putting a towel round their heads to help them think more clearly."

"Sure I'll stop smoking — tomorrow"

NEW YORK (R) — The U.S. Surgeon General said an immediate ban on cigarettes would leave millions of Americans addicted to nicotine and would not solve the problem.

Speaking on CBS TV, Dr. Jocelyn Elders said an immediate ban would not solve the problem of nicotine addiction.

"We would have all of those millions of Americans out there who are addicted to the drug," she said. The government should tell people about the dangers of smoking and provide nicotine patches that help them kick the habit. "We can't just immediately ban cigarettes without making sure that we treat our American people," she said.

Bird lovers want to spike French hunters' guns

LONDON (R) — British bird lovers have vowed to lead an international campaign to block plans by the European Union to extend France's hunting season for wild birds.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said hundreds of thousands of birds migrating could be killed as a result of a planned change in the EU wild birds directive to give French hunters an extra month's shooting. Activists fear the French government is sacrificing the birds to appease hunters threatening to vote for the far-right National Front in June's European elections.

Methinks he doth protest...

HONG KONG (R) — Five British and Hong Kong soldiers rescued from the Borneo jungle after four weeks were reunited with their families, with their leader admitting he failed but asserting he knew what he was doing. They were found by a Malaysian helicopter in perilous Low's Gully on Mt Kinabalu. Team leader, Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Neil, made no direct response to media allegations his team may have been ill-equipped and the expedition foolhardy.

"Very close to death. That is not acceptable. I was not pioneering a route, I was not going into the unknown, I knew what I was doing."

Funny Girl is a sellout

NEW YORK (R) — The chance to see a rare concert by Barbara Streisand, even at \$350 a seat, proved irresistible to millions as they stood in long lines or tied up telephone circuits for a chance to see the shy star in person. A Streisand spokesman said that with five million phone calls jamming lines at the ticketmaster's offices and long lines at box offices, the 12 announced shows and six added to help accommodate demand were all sold out within one hour. "This many calls would have brought down phone systems all over the country if it were on a weekday," he said, estimating 250,000 tickets were sold at prices ranging from \$50 to \$350.

U.K. youngsters want sex info from parents

EXETER, England (R) — British adolescents feel their parents do not tell them enough about the facts of life, a survey published Monday said. More than half of the 29,000 11 to 16-year-olds surveyed by researchers at Exeter University, southwest England, said their main source of information on sex should be their parents. But they said they were usually forced to turn to their friends.

Top Ukrainian politicians make it into parliament

KIEV (AP) — Ukraine's top politicians won seats in the new parliament, but most races will be decided in a runoff in two weeks, unofficial election returns showed Monday.

Plebiscites on closer ties with Russia, held despite a presidential ban, also passed on the Black Sea peninsula of Crimea and in the eastern city of Donetsk.

The Central Election Commission said turnout in Sunday's nationwide parliamentary election was 75 per cent, much higher than expected and well above the 50 per cent needed for a valid vote.

Former Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma, leader of the pro-reform Rukh Movement-Vyacheslav Chornovil and Parliament Speaker Ivan Piyush

were among those who won parliamentary seats by getting 50 per cent in Sunday's first round.

It appeared most of the 450 seats in parliament would not be filled until the top two vote getters in each district face off in next month's runoff.

The new parliament is expected to be polarised between nationalist, pro-reform parties and the Communist Party and their allies on the left. President Leonid Kravchuk, who did not run for parliament, had warned he would postpone presidential elections in June if the new parliament deepens Ukraine's political chaos.

The extreme nationalist Ukrainian National Assembly failed to attract many voters. Only one of their candidates

was elected outright and two made it to the second round, unofficial results showed.

The election took place amid growing economic despair, with living standards falling rapidly and incomes eaten up by hyperinflation.

In addition to parliamentary elections, voters in Crimea, the city of Donetsk in eastern Ukraine, and the Lugansk region on the Russian border, participated in plebiscites on closer ties with Russia.

Mr. Kravchuk said he might consider more economic autonomy for those regions, but ruled out any possibility of their political union with Russia.

"No matter how the situation develops, Crimea will be Ukrainian and decide all issues with Ukraine," he said.

plebiscite, said Sergei Nikulin, chairman of the Plebiscite Committee.

The collapse of Ukraine's economy has prompted Crimea and eastern Ukraine to seek closer ties with more prosperous Russia. In a symbolic gesture, Crimea this weekend moved its clocks ahead and went on Moscow time.

Mr. Kravchuk said he might consider more economic autonomy for those regions, but ruled out any possibility of their political union with Russia.

"No matter how the situation develops, Crimea will be Ukrainian and decide all issues with Ukraine," he said.

More than half of the eligible voters in Crimea went to the polls, and exit polls indicated a majority approved the

NEWS IN BRIEF

2 students killed in U.S.

LOS ANGELES (R) — Two college students — one a Japanese citizen and the other a Japanese-American — died Sunday night from wounds suffered when both were shot in the head during a "carjacking" outside a supermarket. They have been taken off "life support," said a spokesman for Harbor-UCLA Medical Centre. One victim succumbed immediately and the other was pronounced dead a few hours later. Takuma Ito and Go Matsura, both 19, had been declared "brain dead" — the legal definition of death under California law — but doctors had awaited permission from the students' parents before turning off their respirators. In a crime that sparked outrage in Japan and drew condemnation from President Bill Clinton, the two students were shot at close range and critically wounded Friday night in the parking lot of a shopping centre in suburban San Pedro. Tests conducted Sunday showed "no evidence of neurological functioning," said Doctor Curtis Doherty, a neurosurgeon at the Harbor-UCLA Medical Centre, where doctors had worked desperately to keep the two Marymount College students alive. Police said the shootings — which prompted the Japanese Foreign Ministry to warn travelers to the United States to be cautious — would now be treated as a homicide investigation. Investigators Sunday night recovered the car stolen in the attack, a 1994 white Honda Civic, from a street in San Pedro and hoped it would give them leads on a possible suspect, police said.

Yeltsin reappears after holiday

MOSCOW (R) — A calm and smiling president Boris Yeltsin made his first public appearance Monday after a fortnight's seaside holiday, during which rumors he was ill and enemies were plotting coups circulated in Moscow. Yeltsin aides repeatedly denied the rumors, insisting the president was in good health and simply enjoying the sunshine at his seaside home near Sochi on the Black Sea. But Moscow's political establishment turned out at full strength Monday morning to see for themselves. Mr. Yeltsin — not tanned but moving with vigor — greeted visiting Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev in the Kremlin. Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, Defence Minister Pavel Grachev and Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev were among the officials watching as Mr. Yeltsin, wife at his side, strolled across the red carpet of the ornately chandeliered St George's Hall. The television station carried a report saying Mr. Yeltsin had dismissed of the liver. An anonymous document, "version number one," which was passed round parliament, alleged the 63-year-old Russian leader was to be replaced while on holiday. The high-level plot against him was supposed to have been organized by a group including a senior military figure, the mayor of Moscow and a close political ally. All three denied the existence of such a plot.

More 'house of horror' victims named

GLoucester, England (R) — Police Monday named four victims found entombed in Britain's "house of horror," bringing to seven the number of young women identified in the grisly serial killing case. Detective Superintendent John Bennett, who heads

Report: Russia has developed new weapon

LONDON (AP) — The Russian Defence Ministry, defying President Boris Yeltsin, has secretly developed a new germ warfare agent for which the West has no antidote, the Sunday Times reported Sunday. Quoting an unnamed Western intelligence source, the weekly London newspaper said it is so powerful that 440 pounds (200 kilograms) of the "superplague" powder sprayed from aircraft or used in airborne bombs could kill 500,000 people. The paper quoted the source as saying: "There is tremendous concern. These are offensive weapons and if they were ever used their effects would be truly awful." The Sunday Times, stablemate of the Times of London, said the substance is part of a massive secret programme by the Russians to develop biological weapons. It said Mr. Yeltsin repeated assurances to President George Bush when they met in Vancouver last year that the programme had been shut down two years ago. But it said evidence from three defectors, one to the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency and two to Britain's secret intelligence service, has supplied proof that the programme is still going ahead under control of the Russian Defence Ministry.

10 killed in new Abkhazia fighting

TBILISI (R) — At least 10 people have been killed and 22 injured in three days of fighting in a remote mountainous region of Georgia's rebel province of Abkhazia, the Georgian leadership said Monday. The fighting around villages in the Svaneti Mountains in the eastern part of the province followed warnings by Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze of renewed bloodshed after the breakdown of peace talks in New York this month. A statement from Mr. Shevardnadze's office said Abkhaz forces had shelled villages along the Kodori, and area populated mainly by Georgians who have stubbornly hung on there despite the Abkhaz separatist victory in the province last September. In their version of the clashes, Abkhazian authorities said two battalions of Georgian troops launched an assault on the village of Lata, a key point in the Kodori Gorge. The Georgians in Svaneti have long complained about receiving little logistical support from Tbilisi to help them against the Abkhazians. Thillist-based observers said the clashes seemed isolated and did not appear to reflect a new thrust by Georgian forces to take back control of the Black Sea territory.

White House rallies behind Clinton aide

SAN DIEGO (R) — The White House is rallying behind President Bill Clinton's embattled senior adviser George Stephanopoulos amid allegations he inquired about removing a prominent Republican hired to investigate the Whitewater case.

Mr. Clinton's failure thus far to publicly stand up for his young aide has fed media speculation the president might be distancing himself from the feisty adviser whose strategy of counterattack and damage control helped Mr. Clinton's election.

In a brush with reporters Saturday in Dallas, Mr. Clinton answered questions on health care and his brother Roger's wedding plans but balked when asked about Mr. Stephanopoulos.

But aboard Air Force One on a flight from Dallas to San Diego, White House spokesman Jeff Eller walked into the press cabin specifically to reject news reports that Mr. Stephanopoulos might be in trouble.

"The entire White House staff stands behind George Stephanopoulos fully and completely, and that includes the president, the Chief of Staff (Thomas 'Mac' McLarty), the first lady (Hillary Rodham Clinton), and all the members of the White House staff," he said.

Mr. Eller said that just because Mr. Clinton had made no comment on it "doesn't mean he does not support George — because he does, absolutely."

Both Mr. McLarty and the Whitewater special prosecutor Robert Fiske are conducting separate probes into a Feb. 25 phone call between Mr. Stephanopoulos and his close friend Joshua Steiner, the chief of staff of the Treasury Department.

During the conversation Mr. Stephanopoulos complained about a decision by the Resolution Trust Corporation, an independent federal agency, to hire Republican Jay Stephens, a former U.S. attorney for Washington D.C., to look into the bankruptcy of failed Arkansas savings and loan institution Madison Guaranty.

This happened on the same day that members of Congress were railing about contacts between Treasury officials and the White House related to the Whitewater affair.

A senior White House official travelling with the Clintons on a spring-break vacation to San Diego this week said Mr. Clinton was not angry at Mr. Stephanopoulos and in fact shared his same concern as to whether Mr. Stephens, who has publicly criticised Mr. Clinton in the past, could be impartial.

Meanwhile, a major Republican

critic of the U.S. administration said Sunday that he did not believe the Whitewater affair was enough to bring down President Clinton.

House speaker Tom Foley, meanwhile, said congressional hearings on the matter could start as early as May.

Asked if the tangle of Arkansas real estate and financing deals over the Whitewater Development Corp., could prompt impeachment proceedings against Mr. Clinton, Representative Jim Leach of Iowa said on NBC's Meet The Press:

"I don't reach those conclusions and I think it is incumbent upon me to say there should be constraints on this query," he said. "I think this query should proceed forthrightly and hopefully can be put behind us in a month or two."

Mr. Foley, who was also on the programme, said Whitewater special counsel Robert Fiske told congressional leaders he would complete questioning of Washington witnesses in "a matter of weeks" and would not oppose hearings starting after that.

"I am not going to object to hearings that he (Fiske) does not object to," Mr. Foley said. "I don't want to set a time. Sometime, as early as that, yes."

cause Mr. Clinton had made no comment on it "doesn't mean he does not support George — because he does, absolutely."

Both Mr. McLarty and the Whitewater special prosecutor Robert Fiske are conducting separate probes into a Feb. 25 phone call between Mr. Stephanopoulos and his close friend Joshua Steiner, the chief of staff of the Treasury Department.

During the conversation Mr. Stephanopoulos complained about a decision by the Resolution Trust Corporation, an independent federal agency, to hire Republican Jay Stephens, a former U.S. attorney for Washington D.C., to look into the bankruptcy of failed Arkansas savings and loan institution Madison Guaranty.

This happened on the same day that members of Congress were railing about contacts between Treasury officials and the White House related to the Whitewater affair.

A senior White House official travelling with the Clintons on a spring-break vacation to San Diego this week said Mr. Clinton was not angry at Mr. Stephanopoulos and in fact shared his same concern as to whether Mr. Stephens, who has publicly criticised Mr. Clinton in the past, could be impartial.

Meanwhile, a major Republican

Hack upsets Pierce to win Houston Slims title

HOUSTON, Texas (R) — Seventh-seeded German Sabine Hack withstood a strong start by fourth seed Mary Pierce of France to win the Virginia Slims of Houston title with a 7-5 6-4 victory late Sunday.

The 19th-ranked Hack, who had upset top-seeded Spaniard Conchita Martinez Saturday in a rematch of last year's final, collected \$80,000 for the biggest payday of her career.

"It's really great, just unbelievable. I didn't expect to win this tournament," said the delighted Hack, whose last title came at a minor tournament in Brazil last October.

Playing in damp, cool conditions with strong wind, the 14th-ranked Pierce got off a fast start. She won the first 11 points of the match en route to leads of 3-0 and 5-2.

Pierce even had a set point at 5-3 30-40, but could not convert as Hack came up with a rare volley winner in the clay court match filled with high, looping shots from the baseline.

It was at that point that the fourth seed's game began to unravel.

"I started a little slow, defensive again," said Hack.

"She played great, hit winners all over the court but I thought maybe that won't continue. I waited for her to make errors."

Lakers beat Bucks in Magic's coaching debut

LOS ANGELES (R) — Magic Johnson made his coaching debut with the Los Angeles Lakers Sunday and his former teammates responded by beating the Milwaukee Bucks.

The Lakers raced to a 31-point halftime lead and coasted to a 110-101 victory.

George Lynch scored a career-high 30 points and Wade Davis added 18 points and rebounds for the Lakers, who led by as many as 36 points.

Johnson, who retired in 1991 after testing positive for the virus that causes AIDS, took over as coach of the team he led to five National Basketball Association (NBA) championships at the request of the struggling team's owner.

The 34-year-old former superstar replaced Randy Pfund, who was fired last week with the Lakers in danger of missing the playoffs for the first time since 1975.

Johnson's return marked only the third sellout of the season for the Lakers, who nearly always filled the seats when Magic was playing for the team.

In Orlando, Patrick Ewing was held scoreless in the first quarter, but poured in 31 points over the next three to lead the New York Knicks to their 13th consecutive win, a 111-90 victory over the Magic.

New York increased its lead to one game over Atlanta in

The wait paid off as Pierce began spraying balls long and wide, adding up to a whopping 50 unforced errors compared to just 18 by the German.

From 2-5, Hack reeled off six consecutive games to take the set and 1-0 lead in the second set.

Pierce said that morning rain led her to believe the match would be delayed. When she was called to take the court at the original start time, she had not had a chance to eat and it affected her play.

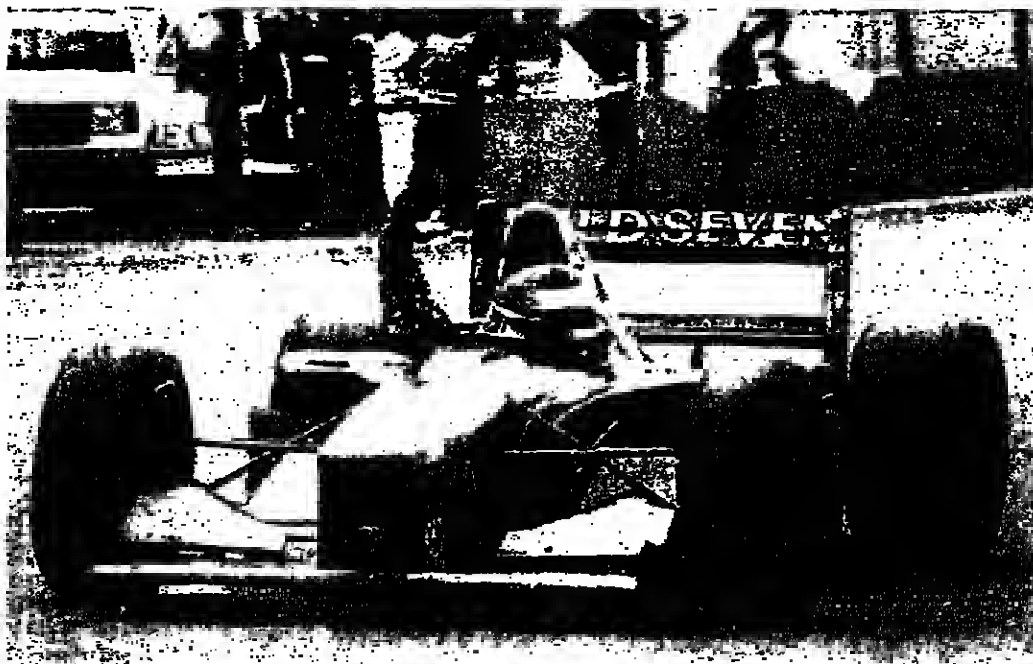
"I came out and I was playing great, but after 3-0 I started feeling I needed to eat. I was feeling a little dizzy, shaking a little bit," said the Canadian-born Pierce.

After losing the first game of the second set, Pierce took a bathroom break and instead gobbled down some food, which seemed to help temporarily as she won the next two games.

But a determined Hack, less bothered by the miserable weather, broke Pierce in the fifth and seventh games to take a 5-2 lead.

Pierce managed to save six match points before succumbing on the seventh with her 50th error — a backhand long.

"It was one of the worst matches — I ever played but Sabine played smart," said Pierce, who earned \$36,000.



German Formula One driver Michael Schumacher waves to the crowd from his Benetton-

Ford after his victory in the Brazilian Grand Prix (AFP photo)

Schumacher earns 3rd Grand Prix victory

SAO PAULO, Brazil (R) — Michael Schumacher of Germany claimed the third victory of his Formula One career late Sunday when he won a dramatic, crash-hit Brazilian Grand Prix at Interlagos.

Driving his Benetton with great assurance, Schumacher started from second on the grid, ran close behind home favourite Ayrton Senna's Williams in the opening stages, then took the lead in the pit lane after 22 laps.

Senna, making his debut with Williams after six years at McLaren, stormed after him and closed to within seven seconds after the pair had stopped again to refuel.

But after 56 laps of the 71-lap race, Senna spun off and out of contention, leaving

Schumacher with an easy run to the chequered flag.

Schumacher finished a lap clear of second-placed Briton Damon Hill in a Williams and Frenchman Jean Alesi, third in a Ferrari.

Brazilian Rubens Barrichello finished fourth in front of his home city supporters in a Jordan, ahead of Japan's Ukyo Katayama, who was fifth in a Tyrrell, and Austrian Karl Wendlinger, sixth in his Sauber.

It was a dramatic race from start to finish and fully justified the predictions that the new package of regulations, which ban all high-tech driver aids and re-introduced refuelling for the first time in 11 years, would bring more competitive and exciting racing.

Senna, widely expected to win this season opener, led from his 63rd pole position until lap 22, but Schumacher then took command after a dramatic double pit-stop when both went in to refuel and change their tyres.

As the pair entered the pit lane Senna led by two-tenths of a second, but the skill and speed of the Benetton pit-crew ensured their man was first to exit with a narrow lead over the three-times world champion Brazilian.

It was the decisive moment of an exciting and chaotic race in which it was difficult to follow the tactics and strategies adopted by the teams as they selected when and how often to refuel.

Lillehammer recovering from 16-day Olympic bash

LILLEHAMMER, Norway (AP) — The athletes are gone. Most of the banners are gone. The tents, the huge crowds, the snow sculptures are gone, gone, gone.

A month after the 1994 Winter Olympics closed Feb. 27, some residents of Lillehammer wonder if their 16-day party was a dream.

"I think a lot of people feel like they did this really happen?" said Torild Wessel Larsen of the local tourist office. "It's an empty feeling. A strange feeling. But we also feel very proud."

Norwegians worked for five years and spent 7.3 billion kroner (\$1 billion) to make their second Winter Olympics — Oslo hosted the 1952 games — a success.

Everything went so well — excellent weather, friendly flag-waving crowds, stunning new venues and virtually glitch-free arrangements — that Norwegians are talking

about bidding to host the games again in 2010.

"I'm not sure if that would be a good idea," Larsen said. "The sequel is never as good as the original."

All along Storgata, Lillehammer's main walking street, and elsewhere in the town of 23,000 are reminders that the games are indeed over.

Rows of white flagpoles stand naked, stripped of their Olympic banners. A huge garbage container overflows with trash from a temporary restaurant that moved out so a shoe store could move back in. The snow sculptures are gone. Stores advertise sales on Olympic souvenirs.

Carpenters have already started hammering at dozens of modular apartment buildings set up north of town, getting buildings ready to be moved to north Norway, where they are needed.

There are still a few holdouts, like the half-dozen Olympic pin traders standing in fast moving rivulets of melting snow on Storgata.

"I keep changing my ticket every week," said Dan Baker, a 43-year-old pin trader from Hot Springs, Ark. who arrived just before the games began Feb. 12.

But many of those walking along Storgata on a mild, sun-

ny day had their minds on spring, reminded partly by bright yellow begonias placed out in the slush by a flower shop.

Larsen is looking forward to the summer tourist season. "We think it will be sporadic," she said.

About 30 people a day still write to the tourist office, saying they want to visit Lillehammer because of the Olympics. Local and national organisations are working to keep the interest high.

"The Olympics in Lillehammer can be forgotten in a year," Larsen said. "We have to work to make people remember."

A block away from the tourist office, the rapidly dwindling staff of the Lillehammer Olympic organising committee has just moved into smaller quarters. About 100 of the 550 staff remain, and many leave this month, often facing unemployment.

Head of security Paal Fivel, like most of those remaining, is working on a final report about the games. He will include details of a card system of contingency plans organisers spent years setting up for every possible emergency.

"We didn't need many of the cards. Nothing much happened," he said.

OLD/RARE STAMPS/COINS

TEL. 823789

FOR SALE DUTY FREE CARS

* BMW 520 i, MODEL 89 "NEW SHAPE 90" BLACK, AUTOMATIC, AIRCONDITION, MANY EXTRAS, 42,000 KM, TOP CONDITION & ACCIDENT FREE HISTORY
* PRICE: J. D. 9,750 FINAL
* RENAULT 25, MODEL 89 SILVER MATAUIC, AUTOMATIC, AIRCONDITION, MANY EXTRAS, 81,000KM, TOP CONDITION & ACCIDENT FREE HISTORY
* PRICE: J. D. 5,600
PLEASE CALL 656268 OR 823789

Russia emerges as potential major force in Davis Cup

RUSSIA emerged as a potential major new force in Davis Cup play, while defending champion Germany survived Michael Stich's marathon defeat to squeeze past Austria.

Elsewhere in first-round play in the 16-team world group, the Netherlands beat Belgium 5-0.

The other quarterfinal pairing features France at home against Sweden. France defeated Hungary 4-1, while Sweden complete a 5-0 victory over Denmark.

The first round losers enter the draw for the Sept. 23-25 qualifying round, where a victory will be necessary to return to the world group next year.

In New Delhi, with two of their top stars back in the lineup, the United States flexed its muscle in the opening round of the Davis Cup world group.

Last year, when all of the top players turned down bids to represent America, the U.S. fell to Australia in a first-round match.

This time, Jim Courier, ranked fourth in the world, and no. 9 Todd Martin helped the United States crush India 5-0 and advance to a second-round meeting against the Netherlands in July.

On Sunday, Courier lost a first set tiebreaker but came back to defeat India's Leander Paes 6-7 (7-5), 6-1, 6-4 on the grass court of the Delhi Tennis Association. Martin later beat Zeshan Ali 6-2, 7-5.

Courier and Martin won their singles matches Friday, and Patrick McEnroe and

Richey Reneberg ensured the victory Saturday with a doubles victory over Paes and Gaurav Natekar.

With the series already decided, Sunday's singles were reduced to hasty-of-3.

The second round will be played two weeks after Wimbledon U.S. captain Tom Gullikson has indicated the Courier and Pete Sampras may be his singles lineup.

"We know a lot about the Dutch team. They will have four good players. It will be a tough tie," Courier said.

Russia 4, Australia 1

Russia, led by top-20 veteran Alexander Volkov and exciting newcomer Yevgeny Kafelnikov, defeated last year's runner-up to gain its first-ever berth in the world group quarterfinals.

Volkov secured Russia's victory in the first of the reverse singles with a 6-4, 7-6 (7-4), 6-3 victory over Patrick Rafter on the indoor carpet court at St. Petersburg.

The 20-year-old Kafelnikov, who came within two points of beating Pete Sampras at this year's Australian Open, then defeated Jamie Morgan 6-3, 6-7 (6-8), 7-5 in the final match, reduced to the best-of-3 sets because the overall result had been decided.

Russia will host another newly-independent nation, the Czech Republic, in the quarterfinals. The Czech team beat Israel 4-1 after a dramatic five-set victory by Petr Korda.

Germany 3, Austria 2
Germany, tied 2-2 after in-

spirational team leader Stich lost a 5-hour duel with Thomas Muster, advanced when Marco Kevin Goellner came from behind to beat Horst Skoff.

Muster, no. 11 in the world ranking, outlasted the no. 2-ranked Stich 6-4, 6-7, (8-10), 4-6, 6-3, 12-10 on the indoor clay court at Graz, Austria.

It was then up to Goellner, who lost to Muster Friday, to pull off a 3-6, 6-4, 7-5, 6-1 victory.

Germany will host Spain in the quarterfinals July 15-17.

Netherlands 5, Belgium 0

On carpet at Eindhoven, Netherlands, Paul Haarhuis dispatched Belgian Xavier Daufresne 6-2, 6-3, and Jan Siemerink needed less than an hour to beat Bart Wuyts 6-1, 6-1.

Spain 4, Italy 1

On clay at Madrid, Bruguera secured Spain's berth in the quarterfinals with a five-set, come-from-behind victory over Stefano Pescosolido, 6-4, 1-6, 0-6, 6-2, 6-3.

France 4, Hungary 1

On the hard court at Besancon, France, Arnaud Boetsch beat Jozsef Kocsos 6-3, 6-3, 6-1 to give France the victory. France's Henri Leconte defeated Sandor Nagy 6-4, 6-3 to complete the win.

Sweden 5, Denmark 0

On Carpet at Lund, Sweden, world no. 3 Stefan Edberg beat Denmark's top player, Kenneth Carlsen, 6-7 (4-7), 6-1, 6-2, and 10th-ranked Magnus Gustafsson defeated Frederik Fetterlein 7-6 (7-5), 6-2.

Weissflog wins final cup ski-jumping event

THUNDER BAY, Ontario (AP) — Jens Weissflog of Germany unleashed a prodigious jump Sunday to win the final ski-jumping World Cup event of the season.

He soared 104 metres on the 90-metre hill and erased the 102-metre record set in 1992 by Toni Nieminen of Finland.

That jump in combination with his first jump of 98 metres gave him 274.5 points.

His win gave Germany a clean sweep of the three events held at Big Thunder. On Friday night they won the team jumping and Gerd Siegmund won the 90-metre competition Saturday.

Takanobu Okabe of Japan

was second with 269 points on jumps of 98 and 99 metres. His performance salvaged a generally poor weekend for the Japanese, who are a world power in this sport.

World Cup champion Espen Bredesen moved from eighth on the first jump to third place overall when he soared 101.5 metres. That with his first jump of 94 metres gave him 266.5 points.

But it was Weissflog's leap — made under the pressure of knowing it had to be a good one because Okabe and Bredesen had taken over the top two positions — that highlighted the day at the competition in Canada.

Niemann breaks record

CALGARY, Alberta (AP) — German speed-skating star Gudmund Niemann broke the world record for the women's 10,000 metres by more than a minute Sunday at an Olympic invitational meet here.

Her time of 14 minutes, 22.60 seconds, broke the previous world mark of 15:25.25, set in 1988 by Austria's Yvonne Vongennip.

Niemann, 27, also set world record in the 3,000 metres and 5,000 metres earlier over the weekend at the meet at Calgary's Olympic Oval.

VACANCY

A newly established exporters association is seeking to fill the position of
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CANDIDATES SHOULD MEET THE FOLLOWING QUALIFICATIONS:

- 1- Jordanian Nationality (Male or Female).
- 2- Minimum Education level, B.S. degree in Agri-Business. Post-Graduate degree in business administration would be a plus.
- 3- Excellent command of both Arabic and English languages
- 4- Vision for Jordan's Future as a first grade exporter of fresh agriculture products.
- 5- Demonstrate excellent planning (Budget & Activities) and communication skills (Verbal - to large and small groups - & Writing).
- 6- Must have a valid driving license.

Applicants who meet the above mentioned qualifications are kindly requested to forward their C.V. along with a one page statement in English addressing the potential future for a Jordanian exports of freshly produced vegetables.

All applications will be dealt with strict confidentiality. Deadline for accepting application is Tuesday April 5th, 1994.

Please send applications to the following address:

AMDP
ADMINISTRATOR
P.O. BOX 9145
AMMAN - JORDAN

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TAMARA HUSSEIN
©1993 Toronto Media Services, Inc.

ENLIST THE OPPOSITION

East-West vulnerable. East deals.
NORTH
A 3 2
K 5 3
Q 10 7 6 5
A 9 8
WEST
Q 9 7 4 3
K 8 6
7 2
K 5 4 2
A
SOUTH
K 10 5
A Q 8
K Q J
Q J 4

The bidding:
East South West North
1 NT Pass Pass 2 NT
Pass 3 NT Pass Pass

Opening lead: Seven of C.
Some bridge players are natural masochists. They will take a finesse even though they know it has no chance of succeeding. They would far better to heed the warning and search for greener pastures.
With only three-card support for the unbid major, we endorse South's decision to overcall one no trump rather than make a takeout double. North might have jumped to three no trump, but took a slight underbid because the hand was perfectly flat. South had more than enough to ac-

cept the game invitation.
With no entry to hand, West correctly spurned a lead from the five-card spade suit in favor of leading partner's suit. East played the nine and declarer wisely won with the queen. South could count five fast tricks and the diamond suit would produce three more. The ninth trick could come from a successful finesse in either black suit.

East had to have the king of clubs to make a vulnerable opening bid, so a finesse in that suit was bound to fail. The spade finesse could be taken either way and there was not enough information to place the queen of spades with any certainty. Declarer found a pretty solution to the dilemma — he took no finesse at all. At trick two declarer led the king of diamonds. Since holding up was fruitless, besides impossible, East won the ace and reverted to the king of hearts.

Declarer rose with the ace, took two more rounds of diamonds as East discarded clubs, then exited with a heart. East cashed two heart winners, declarer carefully stuffing a card from each black suit from hand and a diamond and a club from dummy, but then was down to nothing but black-suit cards. Which ever suit the defender chose to return would present declarer with the fulfilling trick.

Sweetfryeh

"The Luxury Of The Right To Choose I"

Promotion

21 - 31 MARCH

12,000 JD ++

Never a buffet...
Never a set menu!
...Never a dancer?

To introduce...

The New Look

& The Upgraded Menu

...affordable prices

Lunch & Dinner

Turino

Club Restaurant

Check Details 816690

Cinema	Tel.: 634144	Cinema	Tel.: 699238	Cinema	Tel.: 677420	Cinema	Tel.: 618274 - 618275	Cinema	Tel.: 675571	Nabil & Hisham's	Tel.: 625155
PHILADELPHIA		PLAZA		CONCORD		AMMOUN THEATRE		Nabil Al Mashini Theatre		AHLAN THEATRE	
INDECENT PROPOSAL		Holly Floria & Alicia Anne in BIKINI ISLAND		CONCORD '1' DEMOLITION MAN CONCORD '2' THE FUGITIVE		Opening Soon A political comedy Forbidden X Forbidden		Watch for the surprise — The next play...		Since the actors are abroad the theatre is closed It will re-open on April 6, 1994 for two weeks in the last performances of: "Arab Summit Conference"	
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30		Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30		Shows: 12:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15, 10:15							

NEWS IN BRIEF

No 'Schindler's List' for Jordan

AMMAN (R) — Information Minister Jawad Al Anani said he wanted to ban the film "Schindler's List" because of popular anger over last month's massacre of Muslims in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. Dr. Anani said it would not be opportune to show a movie sympathetic to Jewish suffering, and challenged Hollywood to be "fair" by making films depicting how Palestinians suffered at the hands of Israelis. "People are going to ask me: Is this the time to sympathise with what happened almost 50 years back while the massacre in Hebron took place four weeks ago? This is not an opportune time."

Bashir sets May 16 for next peace talks

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudanese head of state Lieutenant General Omar Hassan Al Bashir has set May 16 for the next round of peace talks between the government and southern rebels, the official news agency SUNA said on Monday. The talks will be held in the Kenyan capital Nairobi. The head of the government delegation, Parliament Speaker Mohammed Al Amin Khalifa, said he hoped the next round would be the last. Last week in Nairobi, the government and the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army signed an agreement on unimpeded delivery of relief aid to needy people in the war-torn south.

Drug dealer executed in Syria

DAMASCUS (AP) — A 31-year-old Syrian convicted of murdering a Syrian anti-narcotics agent in Lebanon in 1982 was hanged in a public square in the Syrian capital Monday. The government-run Tishrin daily identified the convict as Abdul Hakim Naseif, a drug trafficker from Homs province 160 kilometres north of Damascus. He was convicted of shooting Ali Dehou, a Syrian anti-narcotics agent.

Chinese firm to build bridge in Sudan

KHARTOUM (R) — A Chinese company is to build a major bridge across the White Nile linking Khartoum with its twin city of Omdurman to the west, the official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) said Monday. The agency said the contract was signed in Khartoum on Sunday between Khartoum state and the Chinese company, Chilian. Construction of the 757-metre bridge is set to start in September and is due to be completed in 1998. It will cost 50 million Sudanese pounds (\$125,000) in local currency and 88,000 in hard currency to be raised by the Sudanese.

Bhutto renews call for Kashmir negotiations

MUSCAT (AP) — Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on Monday renewed her call for a peacefully negotiated end to the conflict in Jammu-Kashmir. Ms. Bhutto, addressing a press conference before winding up a 48-hour official visit to Oman, said her government had "rattled" New Delhi on the issue as no other previous government had done. "When we speak out on Jammu and Kashmir, we speak out through conviction. We speak out because we truly desire peace and stability in our subcontinent and we believe that it is high time that India and Pakistan resolved the issue of Jammu and Kashmir in accordance with the wishes of the people of Jammu and Kashmir through the expression of their right of self-determination," Ms. Bhutto said. "It is our duty not to allow this wound to fester between the two... and to subject yet another generation to a life of tension and hostility." The best way to resolve the issue was through internationally accepted laws, she affirmed.

Norway unlikely to expel more Iranians

OSLO (R) — Norway is unlikely to escalate a tit-for-tat conflict with Iran by expelling more of Tehran's diplomats, the foreign ministry said on Monday. Iran said on Sunday it was expelling the Norwegian consul in Tehran on Sunday after Norway ordered out its counterpart at the Iranian embassy in Oslo two days earlier. The expulsions worsened already strained ties between the two nations. "We believe there is no reason to go further along this path (of expulsions)," ministry spokesman Arthur Knudsen said. "We still regret the expulsion (of Norwegian Consul Arne Lundby). We feel it was without justification." Both Mr. Lundby and Iran's Mohammad Movahed were accused of activities incompatible with their diplomatic status.

Playwright Eugene Ionesco dies

PARIS (AP) — Playwright Eugene Ionesco, one of the masters of the theatre of the absurd, died Monday in Paris, the culture ministry said. He was 81. His family said he had been hospitalised, but declined to give details about the cause of death. Ionesco captivated audiences worldwide with a unique blend of black humour and farce which he used to dramatise the stifling world of middle class conventionalism. His best-known play was "The Bald Soprano," in which two married couples, the Smiths and the Martins, sit around exchanging basic axioms such as "the country is quieter than the city." It was performed more than 25,000 times since it opened to critical acclaim in 1950. Ionesco died almost always controversial. After a performance of "The Lesson," where the professor spends an hour verbally assaulting his pupil, his 40th "victim" that day, the leading actor had to escape the theatre through a back door while an outraged audience demanded their money back.

Kuwait emir receives message from Iran

KUWAIT (R) — The emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, on Monday received a visiting Iranian minister who passed on a message from Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, the official Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) said. KUNA said Iran's Minister of Roads and Transport Akbar Khatami arrived in Kuwait earlier on Monday. Mr. Torkan said Iran would sign a shipping and land transport agreement with Kuwait. KUNA gave no details.

Girl killed in British school shooting

LONDON (R) — A girl was killed and three other children injured on Monday after an armed man burst into a classroom in Middlesbrough, northeast England, police said. Sergeant Pamela Henderson of the Middlesbrough police told Sky Television the man, carrying unidentified weapons, walked into a classroom where 12 and 13-year-olds were studying maths. "The man was brandishing weapons and ordered the male teacher out of the room," Sgt. Henderson said. "The teacher was shot in the back of the head and died."

She said one girl was dead and three children injured and that a 29-year-old man had been arrested. No further details were available.

Russia not developing 'super plague'

MOSCOW (R) — Russia's Defence Ministry on Monday denied a Western news report that it was developing biological weapons of mass destruction. Itar-Tass news agency quoted the ministry as saying it was neither developing nor producing such weapons, including a so-called "super-plague" which had

who has been misled into believing the research has been halted. The Sunday Times said the plague Russia was developing, in breach of international agreements, was so powerful that just 200 kilograms sprayed from planes or used in airburst bombs could kill 500,000 people.

King donates JD 60,000 for kidney dialysis units at Jerash and Madaba

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has donated JD 60,000 for the installation of two dialysis units at Jerash and Madaba hospitals, Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas said Monday.

Dr. Malhas said the King, in a telephone contact with him, enquired about services at the two hospitals and learnt that they lack such service for the kidney patients.

"King Hussein directed the Ministry of Health to make available this vital service and announced that he was donating JD 60,000 of his own funds to finance the installation of the two dialysis units in the two hospitals," Dr. Malhas said.

Dr. Malhas said he immediately instructed the two concerned hospitals to make room for the two units and to send officials to Al Bashir Hospital in Amman to be trained on the operation of the two units.

Dr. Malhas said the ministry would announce tenders for the purchase of the two dialysis units by mid-April and the installation of the equipment would take four months.

Meanwhile, the minister Monday circulated a memo to the health centres and hospitals instructing them to examine their disposal of radioactive waste.

He said that measures should be taken to prevent these materials from reaching



garbage dumps or sewers. A columnist in Al Rai daily paper Monday said that radioactive waste was being dumped in garbage containers like other ordinary waste and that liquid waste was dumped in the sewerage system.



A group of Bosnian soldiers returns Monday from the frontline to the village of Kardaglic near Maglaj in northern Bosnia. The siege of the Muslim enclave was lifted last week (AFP photo)

Serb heavy weapons still in Sarajevo exclusion zone

SARAJEVO (AP) — Despite earlier promises, Bosnian Serbs still have heavy weapons in the U.N. exclusion zone around Sarajevo — a situation that had better change soon, U.N. officials warned Monday. Their Serbs have only two options, said U.N. spokesman Major Rob Annink: move the guns out of the zone or to a U.N. weapons collection point.

Angered by the February mortar attack that killed 68 people in a Sarajevo market, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) handed Bosnian Serbs an ultimatum: Remove heavy weapons from within 20 kilometres of the Bosnian capital or face air strikes.

But last week, peacekeepers found a cache of Serb heavy weapons in the Cifluk area, just northwest of Sarajevo and within the exclusion zone, leading to a tense standoff between Canadian peacekeepers and Serbs.

The 17 heavy weapons remained in the Cifluk area Monday, Maj. Annink said. "They have not moved. We are monitoring them, keeping an eye on them. We are negotiating on the highest levels," he said.

Asked how the weapons could still be there in violation of the U.N. agreement and technically still under the threat of air strikes, Mr. Annink replied: "We are waiting for them to move. We expect it to happen soon."

Serbs had earlier claimed the weapons were outside the zone, based on their map, which used a different centre point in Sarajevo plan the U.N. map. But on Friday, Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic agreed that the U.N. map was the correct one.

Commander Simon MacDowall, another U.N. spokesman, said the guns were spread over a fairly large area, about 100-150 metres apart, and that 70-75 Canadian and Russian peacekeepers were manning 12 observation posts.

Guns elsewhere in Bosnia were not silent, however. Fighting continued Monday in north-central Bosnia between the government army and Serb forces, near Maglaj and Tesanj, Bosnian radio reported. In the extreme northwest, Bosnian radio reported Serb attacks on government positions around Bihać.

In Sarajevo, Bosnian Croat leaders gathered Monday for an assembly that is to begin

forming an interim government and calling new elections as part of Bosnia's new Muslim-Croat federation. Croats from western Bosnia were pushing for their own leader, Kresimir Zubak, to become the federation's interim president.

Also Monday, Western nations suspended aid to the besieged Bosnian towns because convoys have been getting through.

Over the past 12 months, U.S., German and French planes have dropped 17,561 tonnes of food, medicine and winter clothing into Bosnia.

Sadako Ogata, the U.N. high commissioner for refugees, said the aid drops prevented mass starvation during the past two winters and could be restarted if necessary. She spoke at a ceremony Monday honouring the air crews at the U.S. Rhein-main air force base in Frankfurt, Germany.

Bosnia's war began in April 1992 when Serbs armed by the Yugoslav army rebelled against moves by the majority Croats and Muslims to secede from Yugoslavia. More than 200,000 people are dead or missing in the fighting and more than two million people have been made homeless.

Egypt, Pakistan agree on extradition

CAIRO (AP) — Pakistan and Egypt have reached agreement on an accord for extradition of wanted Muslim extremists, Pakistani Law Minister Iqbal Haider said Monday.

Egypt has long complained that much of the violence by Muslim radicals here has been directed by Egyptians living in Pakistan, especially towns like Peshawar on the border with Afghanistan.

The two nations have long fought Russian troops in Afghanistan.

Mr. Haider said in a telephone interview that the working of an extradition treaty was worked out with Egyptian Justice Minister Farouk Seif Al Nasr.

He also said Egypt has provided a list of suspects it wants returned. Spokesman at Egypt's Interior Ministry,

agreed. Muslim extremists have waged a campaign of violence since the spring of 1992 to try to bring down Egypt's secular government and replace it with strict Islamic rule.

Their main targets have been government officials and police as well as minority Coptic Christians and tourists. At least 345 people have died, including extremists killed by police.

It is unknown how many Egyptian extremists are in Pakistan and Afghanistan. But Egyptian authorities have said the Jihad group is directed from one of the Asian countries by Mohammad Ibrahim Al Mekkawi, a militant who fled Egypt after the 1981 assassination of President Anwar Sadat.

Mr. Sadat was killed by extremists.

The most wanted fugitive is Mohammad Shawky Al Islam-bouly, whose brother Khaled led the group that assassinated Sadat. Mohammad Shawky Al Islam-bouly was sentenced to

death in December 1992 in absentia for a plot to overthrow the government and assassinate Egyptian leaders. In 1990, he was held in Pakistan to Egyptian Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, who is awaiting trial in the United States in connection with plots to bomb the World Trade Centre and other New York institutions.

Egyptian officials said that Afghan-trained militants were behind assassination attempts against Egyptian Interior Minister Hassan Al Alfay last August and Prime Minister Atef Sedki in November. General Alfay was slightly injured, Mr. Sedki escaped harm, but a schoolgirl nearby was killed.

Pakistani police last year launched a crackdown on illegal aliens in the country, many of them Arabs known as "Afghans" from their Afghan

death. Mr. Haider said that more than 2,000 Arab nationals already have left or been deported from Pakistan over the last year. He said some were Egyptians, but did not give exact figures.

Islamists lose a little in university elections

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Early results of elections to the students council at the University of Jordan showed that Islamists had lost part of their clout, to independents and to the newly-founded Al Watan stream.

Although elections were postponed for another day at two main and large faculties — the Faculty of Arts and Literature and the Faculty of Education since the number of voters was below quorum, a heated competitive atmosphere between independents and Islamists overwhelmed Monday's elections all over the university's different faculties.

"This year's elections signal a shift in the students attitude towards elections," said Mohammad Khraisat, director of the deanship college. "There is noticeable competition and increased enthusiasm towards participating in the council's elections."

The sweep of almost all seats by the Al Watan stream (centrist) at the Faculty of Law led to festivities inside the campus. Students chanting nationalist slogans de-

monstrated outside the Faculty of Law and at the university's main gate. Some students said that they heard gunfire when the results were announced.

The dean of the Faculty of Law, Mohammad Al Ghazawi, told the Jordan Times that the students were exploding fireworks.

The Faculty of Law and most probably the Faculty of Administrative Sciences were considered by observers as the only two areas where Islamists did not have strong influence. Other faculties, such as engineering, sciences, Sharia, and medicine were considered as the Islamists' strongholds. The Islamists occupied 73 seats in the previous council, but are not expected to retain more than 65 out of the 80-seat council.

"It is just a couple of seats' difference from last year but it is a positive sign," one candidate student who lost in the elections said. Another colleague, an Islamist, perceived this result as a move targeted at Islamists and not as a victory for other streams.

Two hundred and twenty-eight students were competing for the council's 80 seats out of whom 35 were female students.

Syria blames PLO for collapse of coordination

CAIRO (R) — Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa lashed out at the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), saying it had resumed talks with Israel without coordinating with other Arab states.

"It's clear that our Palestinian brothers in the PLO have practically resumed talks (with Israel) and therefore consultations will continue between the Arab countries concerned in the peace talks — Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon," Mr. Sharaa, in Cairo for an Arab League meeting, said late on Sunday.

"In fact and practically the PLO started negotiations in secret and far from Arab coordination with states concerned with the peace process, and this of course forced the Palestinians out of the Arab coordination process. It is the PLO which pushed itself out of this coordination and not the Arab parties which have forced the PLO out," he added.

"Now we also see that the negotiations are being resumed by the PLO in Tunis and here in Cairo before we meet as Arab parties and take the necessary decisions to resume the negotiations," he said.

The PLO, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon suspended their peace talks with Israel after the massacre of dozens of Palestinians by a Jewish settler in the West Bank town of Hebron last month.

But the PLO started talks with Israeli officials last week to agree on security arrangements for Hebron as a prelude

to resuming the peace talks on Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, originally set for April.

Mr. Sharaa said Syria and the ministers of Jordan and Lebanon would meet to coordinate policies before the next round of peace talks resume in Washington at the end of April.

He said there had been no progress in the peace talks since U.S. President Bill Clinton and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad held a summit meeting in Geneva in January.

In apparent reference to the phased Gaza-Jericho agreement signed between Israel and the PLO in Washington last year, Mr. Sharaa said Syria rejected the policy of one step at a time.

"We confirm our commitment to a just and comprehensive solution in the region, based on United Nations resolutions, international legitimacy, the withdrawal of Israel from all Arab occupied lands and the preservation of the rights of the Palestinian people," he said.

"Until now Israeli Prime Minister (Yitzhak) Rabin has not said he is ready to withdraw totally from the Golan Heights. Syria has said that it demands a full withdrawal in return for a full peace, but Israel has not yet accepted this formula."

"We do not accept the policy of phases or partial steps, it is clear to everybody that peace, if it is not comprehensive, won't lead to stability and security in the region," he said.

U.N. wants Afghans to seize peace chance

ISLAMABAD (R) — The head of a U.N. peace mission urged Afghan factions Monday to end a civil war which neither could win and seize a "unique opportunity" for national reconciliation.

Former Tunisian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestiri told a news conference his five-member mission would travel to the war-shattered Afghan capital Kabul by the end of this week, after new guarantees for their safety were received.

Mr. Mestiri said the military stalemate showed neither side was strong enough to win an outright victory and urged an end to the fighting so rebuilding could begin.

He said more than 400,000 people were at risk of starvation in Kabul. "The Afghan people are tired and weary of fighting. The only way to achieve a lasting peace is through a political solution acceptable to the vast majority of the Afghan people."

"An end to the fighting is a prerequisite to establishing a process of rapprochement and reconstruction in the country," he said, adding: "Afghans, better than anyone else, know how to find ways to talk to each other and understand each other."

The mission is coming to encourage these tendencies towards peace. This is a unique opportunity which Afghans must seize," he declared.

Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar have promised to guarantee the security of the U.N. mission. But Mr. Mestiri said he wanted the assurances "better formulated" and details were being finalised.

Mr. Mestiri's mission is charged with seeking the views of a broad spectrum of Afghan leaders on how the United Nations might best help with national reconciliation.

It was authorised under a U.N. General Assembly resolution adopted last December, just 10 days before the latest round of factional fighting erupted in Kabul on New Year's Day. The U.N. Security Council endorsed the mission last Wednesday.

Mr. Mestiri said he was full of hope despite the continuing fighting between forces loyal to Mr. Rabbani and an alliance led by Mr. Hekmatyar and powerful northern warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostum.

Asked if he carried a peace plat, Mr. Mestiri replied: "I don't have any magic formula in my pocket for the Afghan people to reach peace. I think whatever solution, it must emanate from the Afghan people themselves. Of course we will encourage any initiative of that sort and we will help if we can to bring people together."

Mr. Mestiri said Afghan groups or individuals had already made some interesting proposals and he hopes to find common ground. "Those proposals look to me... very acceptable," he said.

COLUMNS

Clintons in San Diego for week of rest, fun

SAN DIEGO (R) — President Bill Clinton, Hillary Rodham Clinton and daughter Chelsea are spending the better part of this week catching up on some rest from the fast pace of Washington. The Clintons arrived on the west coast Sunday night from Dallas after watching their favourite basketball team, the University of Arkansas Razorbacks, advance as one of the last four teams left in the race for the National Collegiate Athletic Association Basketball Championship by beating Michigan 76-68 in Dallas. White House spokesman Jeff Eriq summed up the Clinton's goal this week as "to take some time off. He and the first lady want to relax, take advantage of the sunshine of southern California. I anticipate golf — fun, wholesome things." There was some talk of the Clintons taking a boat for some whale watching. They are scheduled to stay until Saturday and then fly to Charlotte, North Carolina, to see Arkansas play Arizona in the semifinals. If the Razorbacks win they would advance to the National Championship game next Monday.

China tries to help 200,000 street children

BEIJING (R) — China is trying to help 200,000 street children who have fallen through the cracks of the rapidly disintegrating Socialist system. The public awareness drive is aimed at raising money to provide shelter and schooling for children abandoned between four and 11 "thrown onto the streets as the result of regional disasters, broken families and inadequate pastoral care," the official China Daily said Monday. "The kids survive by begging and sleep in the cities' swarms of railway stations at night," the newspaper said. "Mortality and disability rate among homeless kids are high and they are also prey to the temptations of crime." A joint investigation of 1,000 homeless children sponsored by the Ministry of Civil Affairs and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) found two-thirds took to the streets either following a parental divorce or to escape mistreatment at home. "Almost 23 per cent 'succumbed to the lure of social evils like gambling or stealing' while eight per cent were abandoned because they were mentally retarded. Five per cent were forced onto the streets by poverty, the China Daily said. China has had limited success in helping its street children, who are less likely to come to official notice as old methods of social control are dropped amid economic reforms.

Filmmakers turn Des Moines into Ghost town

DES MOINES, Iowa (Down-town Des Moines was dead this weekend. Blame the alien slugs. Production crews buzzed the city with two helicopters Saturday and Sunday, filming the climax of the science-fiction movie The Puppet Masters. Because the crew needed Des Moines to appear devoid of life, police kept the streets clear of cars and people each time a helicopter made a run over the business district. Sightseers gaped. Business owners seethed. "How can they do this to a business area?" asked Lee Ozdych, manager of the downtown J.C. Penney Co. store. The store has been flooded with customers for a closeout sale. But the filming frequently prevented employees and customers from entering for up to 10 minutes at a time. "We've got some really irate people," said Linda Sinclair, who was helping the filmmakers keep people from crossing a street. "And then others are OK. Some of them are really fascinated." The movie, starring Donald Sutherland and Julie Warner, is based on the novel by the late Robert Heinlein. In the movie, slugs land outside an Iowa community, called "Ambrose," take control of residents and invade Des Moines. "Des Moines will be saved from aliens, but there won't be anybody left," said Tim Hillman, the location manager. Most of the filming was completed on a Los Angeles sound stage and in Fresno, Calif.

PARIS (AP) — The French government...
VOLUME 18
Queen re...
AMMAN (R) — King Hussein...
BAGHDAD...
RUSSIAN d...
MISSING IN...
BANGKOK...
TWO SENT...
DEATH IN A...
PARIS (R) —...
JOHN BOO...
SECURITY A...
MISSIONS...
JOHN (AP) —...
BACK TO THE...
AND ADD PRO...
THE ISRAELI...
QUARANTINED...
A ROW OF POL...
PEAKING ON...
MONUMENT, WH...
ON WIND OF A...
SEEMED TO BE...
COMMUNISM...
FRANKFURT...
MANN, A SPE...
COMMUNITY...
WAS NOT DIS...
A THREAT H...
HAD UNDECE...
NOMINATING...
THE GROUP...
WANTED TO...
HE SAID